

Arabian NIGHTS
ENTERTAINMENTS:
CONSISTING OF
One Thousand and One
STORIES,
TOLD BY

The Sultaneſs of the *Indies* to divert the Sultan from the Execution of a Bloody Vow he had made to marry a Lady every Day, and have her cut off next Morning, to avenge himſelf for the Diſloyalty of his firſt Sultaneſs, &c.

CONTAINING

A better Account of the Cuſtoms, Manners, and Religion of the Eaſtern Nations, *viz.* *Tartars*, *Persians*, and *Indians*, than is to be met with in any Author hitherto published.

Translated into *French* from the *Arabian MSS.*, by M. GALLAND, of the Royal Academy; and now done into *Engliſh* from the laſt *Paris* Edition.

The EIGHTH EDITION.

VOL. II.

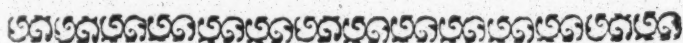
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Arabian NIGHTS ENTERTAINMENTS.



The Thirty-first Night.

THE next Morning *Dinarzade* did not fail to awaken the Sultaneſs at the ordinary Time, and ſaid, Dear Siſter, if you are not aſleep, I would pray you (until Break of Day, which is near at hand) to go on with that agreeable Story you began. Upon which, *Scheherazade* addreſs'd the Sultan thus: Sir, with your leave, I am willing to ſatisfy my Siſter's Curioſity, and at the ſame time went on with the Story of the *Three Calenders*, a ſort of Mahometan Monks.

Zobeide would not take back the Money from the Porter, but ſaid, My Friend, in conſenting that you ſtay with us, I muſt forewarn you, that it's not only on condition that you keep ſecret what we have required you, but alſo that you obſerve exactly the Rules of good Manners and Civility. In the mean time the charming *Amine* put off the Apparel ſhe went
abroad

abroad with, put on her Night-gown that she might be more easy, and cover'd the Table, which she furnish'd with several sorts of Meat, and upon a Side-board she set Bottles of Wine and Cups of Gold : Soon after, the Ladies took their places, and made the Porter sit down by them, who was overjoy'd to see himself at Table with three such admirable Beauties. After they had eat a little, *Amine*, who sat next the Side-board, took up a Bottle and Cup, fill'd out Wine, and drank first her self according to the Custom of the *Arabians*, then she fill'd the Cup to her Sisters, who drank in course as they sat; and at last she fill'd it the fourth time to the Porter, who, as he receiv'd it, kiss'd *Amine's* hand; and before he drank, sung a Song to this purpose: That as the Wind brings along with it the sweet Scents of the perfum'd places thro' which it passes, so the Wine he was going to drink coming from her fair Hands, receiv'd a more exquisite Taste than what it had of its own Nature. This Song pleased the Ladies so much, that each of them sung another in their turn. In short, they were extraordinary merry all the time of Dinner, which lasted a long while, and nothing was wanting that could make it agreeable. The Day being almost spent, *Sasie* spoke in the Name of the Three Ladies, and says to the Porter, Arise and be gone, it's time for you to depart. But the Porter, not willing to leave so good Company, cried, Alas! Ladies, whither do you command me to go in the Condition I am in? I am quite besides my self, by what I have seen since I came hither, and having also drank above my Ordinary, I shall never find the way home; allow
me

me this Night to recover my self, in any place where you please; for no less time is necessary for me to come to my self; but go when I will, I shall leave the best part of my self behind me.

Amine pleaded a second time for the Porter, saying, Sisters, he is in the right, I am pleas'd with the Request, he having already diverted us so well; and if you'll take my Advice, or if you love me as much as I think you do, let us keep him, to pass away the remaining part of the Night. Sister, answer'd *Zobeide*, we can refuse you nothing; and then turning to the Porter, said, We are willing once more to grant your Request, but upon this new Condition, That whatever we do in your presence, relating to ourselves or any thing else, take heed you do not once open your Mouth to ask the reason of it; for if you ask Questions about that which does not belong to you, you may come to know that which will be no way pleasing to you; beware therefore, and do not be too curious to dive into the Motives of our Actions.

Madam, replied the Porter, I promise to observe this Condition with such exactness, that you shall have no cause to reproach me with breaking it, and far less to punish my Indiscretion; my Tongue shall be immovable on this occasion, and my Eyes like a Looking-glass, which retains nothing of the Object that is set before it: and to shew you, says *Zobeide* with a serious Countenance, that what we demand of you is not a new thing among us, rise up, and read what is wrote over our Gate on the Inside.

The Porter went thither and read these Words, writ in large Characters of Gold: *He who speaks of Things that don't concern him, shall hear of Things that won't please him.* Returning again to the Three Sisters, Ladies, says he, I give you my Oath, that you shall never hear me speak any thing does not concern me, or wherein you may have any Concern.

This Agreement being made, *Amine* brought in Supper, and after the Room was set round with Tapers, that were mix'd with *Aloes* and *Ambergreece*, which gave a most agreeable Scent as well as a delicate Light; she sat down at Table with her Sisters and the Porter. They began again to Eat and Drink, Sing, and repeat Verses. The Ladies took pleasure to fuddle the Porter, under pretext of causing him to drink their Healths, and abundance of witty Sentences pass'd on both sides. In short, as they were all in the best Humour of the World, they heard one knocking at the Gate. *Scheherazade* was oblig'd to stop here, because she observ'd Day-light appearing.

The Sultan not doubting the Sequel of this History deserv'd to be heard, put it off till the Day following, and so arose.

The Thirty-second Night.

THE next Night being almost at an end, *Dinarzade* call'd to the Sultaneß; For Heaven's sake, Sister, if you are awake, let me pray you to continue the Story of the Three fair Ladies, I am very impatient till I know who it was that knock'd at their Gate. You shall hear it immediately, said she, and I am sure

sure that what I am now going to relate, is worthy of my Lord the Sultan's Attention.

When the Lady, says she, heard the knocking, they all three got up to open the Gate; but *Safie*, to whom this Office did particularly belong, was the nimblest; which her other two Sisters perceiving, sat down till she came back, to acquaint them who it could be that had any Business with them so late. *Safie* returning, said, Sisters, we have here a very fine Opportunity to pass a good part of the Night with much Satisfaction, and if you be of the same mind with me, we shall not let it slip. There are *Three Calenders* at our Gate, at least they appear to be such by their Habit; but that which you will most admire at is, they are all three blind of the right Eye, and have their Heads, Beards, and Eyebrows shaved, and, as they say, are but just come to *Bagdat*, where they never were before; and it being Night, and not knowing where to find any Lodging, they happen'd by chance to knock at this Gate, and pray us, for the Love of Heaven, to have compassion on them, and receive them into the House; they care not what place we put them in, provided they may be under Shelter, they would be satisfied with a Stable: They are young and handsome enough, and seem also to be Men of good Sense; but I cannot, without laughing, think of their pleasant and uniform Figure. Here *Safie* fell a laughing so heartily, that it put the two Sisters and the Porter into the same Mood. My dear Sisters, said she, are you content that they come in, it is impossible but with such Persons as I have already described them to be, we should finish the Day better than we began it; they will afford us

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Diversion enough, and put us to no Charge, because they desire shelter only for this Night, and resolve to leave us as soon as Day appears.

Zobeide and *Amine* made some difficulty to grant *Safie's* request, for reasons they knew well enough. But she having so great a desire to obtain this Favour, could not refuse her: Go then, says *Zobeide*, and bring them in, but don't forget to acquaint them that they must not speak of any thing which does not concern them, and cause them to read what is wrote over the Gate. *Safie* ran out with a great deal of Joy, and in a little while after return'd with the three *Calenders* in her Company.

At their Entrance they made a profound Bow to the Ladies, who rose up to receive them, told them most obligingly that they were very welcome, that they were glad to have met with an Opportunity to oblige them, and to contribute towards relieving them from the Fatigue of their Journey, and at last invited them to sit down with them.

The Magnificence of the Place and the Civility of the Ladies, made the *Calenders* to conceive a mighty Idea of their fine Landladies: But before they sat down, having by chance cast their Eye upon the Porter, whom they saw clad almost like one of those other *Calenders*, with whom they are in controversy about several Points of Discipline, because they neither shave their Beards nor Eye-brows; one of them said, Look here, I believe we have got one of our revolted *Arabian* Brethren.

The Porter being half asleep, and having his Head pretty warm with Wine, was affronted at these Words, and with a fierce Look, without

without stirring from this place, answer'd, Sir you down, and don't meddle with what does not concern you : Have you not read the Inscription over the Gate? Do not pretend to make People live after your Fashion, but follow ours.

Honest Man, says the *Calender*, do not put your self in a Passion; we should be very sorry to give you the least occasion, but on the contrary, we are ready to receive your Commands. Upon which, to avoid all Quarrels, the Ladies interpos'd, and pacified them. When the *Calenders* were sat at Table, the Ladies serv'd them with Meat; and *Safie* being most pleas'd with them, did not let them want for drink.

Scheherazade stopt her Discourse, because she saw Day appear, and the Sultan got up to follow his Affairs, and promised to hear the rest of the Story next day; for he had a great desire to know why those three *Calenders* were blind, and all three of the same Eye.

The Thirty-third Night.

AN Hour before Day, *Dinarzade* being awake, said to the Sultaness, Dear Sister, Pray let me know what pass'd between the Ladies and the *Calenders*. With all my heart, replied *Scheherazade*, and continued her Story in the manner following.

After the *Calenders* had eat and drank liberally, they signified to the Ladies, that they had a great desire to entertain them with a Consort of Mulick, if they had any Instruments in the House, and would cause them to be brought 'em: They willingly accepted the

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proffer, and fair *Safie* going to fetch them, return'd again in a Moment, and presented them with a Flute of her own Country Fashion, another of the *Persian* sort, and a Tabor. Each Man took the Instrument he lik'd, and all three together began to play a Tune. The Ladies, who knew the Words of a merry Song that suited the Air, join'd the Confort with their Voices; but the Words of the Song made them now and then stop, and fall into excessive Laughter.

At the height of this Diversion, and when the Company was in the midst of their Jollity, somebody knocks at the Gate; *Safie* left off singing, and went to see who it was: But, Sir, says *Scheherazade* to the Sultan, it is fit your Majesty should know why this knocking happen'd so late at the Ladies House, and the reason was thus. The Caliph *Haroun Arafchid* was accustomed to walk abroad in Disguise very often by Night, that he might see with his own Eyes, if every thing was quiet in the City, and that no Disorders were committed in it.

This Night the Caliph went out pretty early on his Rambles, accompanied with *Giafar* his Grand Visier, and *Mesrour* the chief of the Eunuchs of his Palace, all disguised in Merchants Habit; and passing through the Street where the three Ladies dwelt, he heard the Sound of the Musick, and great Fits of Laughter: Upon which he commanded the Visier to knock, because he would go in, to know the reason of that Jollity. The Visier told him in vain, that it was some Women a Merry-making, that without question their Heads were warm with Wine, and that it would not be proper he should expose himself to be affronted
by

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by them: Besides, it was not yet an unlawful Hour, and therefore he ought not to disturb them in their Mirth. No matter, said the Caliph, I command you to knock. So it was the Grand Visier *Giafar* that knock'd at the Ladies Gate, by the Caliph's order, because he himself would not be known. *Safie* open'd the Gate, and the Visier perceiving by the Light that she held in her Hand, that she was an incomparable Beauty, he acted his part very well, and with a very low Bow and respectful Behaviour, told her, Madam, we are three Merchants of *Mouffol*, that arrived about ten Days ago with rich Merchandize, which we have in a Warehouse at a *Khan* [or Inn] where we have also our Lodging. We happen'd this day to be with a Merchant of this City, who invited us to a Treat at his House, where we had a splendid Entertainment; and the Wine having put us in Humour, he sent for a Company of Dancers: Night being come on, and the Musick and Dancers making a great Noise, the Watch came by in the mean time, caused the Gate to be opened, and some of the Company to be taken up; but we had the good Fortune to escape, by getting over a Wall. Now, saith the Visier, being Strangers and somewhat overcome with Wine, we are afraid of meeting another, or perhaps the same Watch, before we get home to our *Khan*, which lies a good way from hence. Besides, when we come there, the Gates will be shut, and not open'd till Morning: Wherefore, Madam, hearing, as we pass by this way, the Sound of Musick, we supposed you were not yet going to Rest, and made bold to knock at your Gate, to beg the Favour of lodging our selves in this

House till Morning, and if you think us worthy of your good Company, we will endeavour to contribute to your Diversion what lies in our power, to make some amends for the Interruption we have given you ; if not, we only beg the Favour of staying this Night under your Porch.

Whilst *Giafar* held this Discourse, fair *Safie* had time to observe the Visier and his two Companions, who were said to be Merchants like himself, and told them that she was not Mistress of the House ; but if they would have a Minute's Patience, she would return with an Answer.

Safie acquainted her Sisters with the Matter, who consider'd for some time what to conclude upon : But being naturally of a good Disposition, and having granted the same Favour to the three *Calenders*, at last they consented to let them in. *Scheherazade* intending to continue her Story, saw day-light appear, which made her break off ; but the Quality of these new Actors which the Sultaneſs had brought upon the Stage, whetted the Curiosity of *Schahriar*, who looking for some singular Event, expected the next Night with Impatience.

The Thirty-fourth Night.

Dinarzade being as curious as the Sultan, to know what the Arrival of the Califf at the House of those three Ladies might produce, did not forget to awaken the Sultaneſs very early next Morning, and pray'd her earnestly to resume the Story of the *Calenders*, which *Scheherazade*, with leave of the Sultan, pursued in the following manner.

The

The Califf, his Grand Vifier, and the Chief of the Eunuchs, being introduc'd by the fair *Safie*, very courteously faluted the Ladies and the *Calenders*: The Ladies return'd them the like Civility, fupposing them to be Merchants. *Zobeide*, as the Chief, fays to them with a grave and ferious Countenance, which was natural to her, *You are welcome*. But before I proceed farther, I hope you will not take it ill if we defire one Favour of you. Alas! faid the Vifier, What Favour? We can refufe nothing to fuch fair Ladies. *Zobeide* replied, *It is, that you would only have Eyes, but no Tongues, that you put no Queftion to us, about the reason of any thing you may happen to fee, and not to fpeak of any thing that does not concern you, left you come to hear of things that will by no means pleafe you*. Madam, replied the Vifier, you fhall be obey'd.

We are not cenforious nor impertinently curious; 'tis enough for us to take notice of that which concerns us, without meddling with that which does not belong to us; upon this they all fat down, and the Company being united, they drank to the Health of the New-Comers.

While the Vifier *Giafar* entertain'd the Ladies in difcourfe, the Califf could not forbear to admire their extraordinary Beauty, graceful Behaviour, pleafant Humours and ready Wit; on the other hand, nothing was more furprizing to him than the *Calenders* being all three blind of the right Eye. He would gladly have been inform'd of this Singularity; but the Conditions fo lately impos'd upon himfelf and his Companions, would not allow him to fpeak. This, with the Richnefs of the Furniture, the exact Order of every thing, and Neatnefs of the

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House, made him to think it was some enchanted Place.

Their Entertainment happening to be upon Divertisements, and different ways of making merry, the *Calenders* arose, and danced after their Fashion, which augmented the good Opinion the Ladies had conceived of them, and procur'd them the Esteem of the Caliph and his Companions.

When the three *Calenders* had made an end of their Dance, *Zobeide* arose, and taking *Amine* by the Hand, said, Pray, Sister, rise up, for the Company will not take it ill if we use our Freedom, and their Presence need not to hinder our Performance of what we are wont to do. *Amine*, by understanding her Sister's Meaning, rose up from her Seat, carried away the Dishes, the Table, the Flasks and Cups, together with the Instruments which the *Calenders* had played upon.

Safie was not idle, but swept the Room, put every thing again in its Place, snuff'd the Candles, and put fresh *Aloes* and *Ambergreece* to them, and then pray'd the three *Calenders* to sit down upon the Sofa on one side, and the Caliph with his Companions on the other: As to the Porter, she says to him, Get up and prepare your self to serve in what we are going about; a Man like you, that is as one of the Family, ought not to be idle. The Porter being somewhat recovered from his Wine, gets up immediately, and having tied the Sleeve of his Tea Gown to his Belt, answers, *Here am I*, ready to obey your Commands in any thing. That she very well, replied *Safie*, stay till you are spoken to, you shall not be idle very long. A little time after, *Amine* came in with a Chair, which

she placed in the middle of the Room; and so went to a Closet, which having opened, she beckon'd to the Porter, and says to him, *Come hither and help me*: which he obeying, enter'd the Closet, and return'd immediately, leading two black Bitches, with each of them a Collar and Chain; they look'd as if they had been severely whipp'd with Rods, and he brought them into the middle of the Room.

Then *Zobeide* rising from her Seat between the *Calenders* and the Caliph, march'd very gravely towards the Porter, Come on, says she, with a great Sigh, let us perform our Duty; then tucking up her Sleeves above the Elbows, and receiving a Rod from *Safie*, Porter, said she, deliver one of the Bitches to my Sister *Amine*, and come to me with the other.

The Porter did as he was commanded, the Bitch that he held in his Hand begun to cry, and turning towards *Zobeide*, held her Head up in a begging Posture; but *Zobeide* having no regard to the sad Countenance of the Bitch (which would have mov'd Pity) nor her Cries (that sounded thro' all the House) whipp'd her with the Rod, 'till she was out of breath; and having spent her Strength, that she could strike no more, she threw down the Rod, and taking the Chain from the Porter, lift up the Bitch by her Paws, and looking upon her with a sad and pitiful Countenance, they both wept: After which, *Zobeide*, with her Handkerchief wiped the Tears from the Bitch's Eyes, kiss'd her, re- turn'd the Chain to the Porter, bid him carry her to the Place whence he took her, and bring back the other. The Porter led back the whipp'd Bitch to the Closet, and receiving the other from *Amine*, presented her to *Zobeide*, who bid

the Porter held her as he did the first, took up the Rod, and treated her after the same manner; and when she had wept over her, dried her Eyes and kissed her, returned her to the Porter: but lovely *Amine* spar'd him the trouble of leading her back into the Closet, and did it herself. The three *Calenders* and the Califf, with his Companions, were extremely surpriz'd at this Execution, and could not comprehend why *Zobeide*, after having so furiously whipp'd those two Bitches, that by the Mussulman-Religion are reckon'd unclean Animals, should cry with them, wipe off their Tears, and kiss them; they mutter'd among themselves, and the Califf, who being more impatient than the rest, long'd exceedingly to be inform'd of the Cause of so strange an Action, and could not forbear making Signs to the Visier to ask the Question; the Visier turn'd his Head another way: but being pressed by repeated Signs, he answer'd by others, *That it was not yet time for the Califf to satisfy his Curiosity.*

Zobeide sat still some time in the middle of the Room, where she had whipp'd the two Bitches, to recover herself of the Fatigue; and fair *Sasie* call'd to her, *Dear Sister, will you not be pleas'd to return to your Place, that I may also act my Part.* Yes, Sister, replies *Zobeide*, and then went and sat down upon the Sofa, having the Caliph, *Giafar* and *Mesrour* on her right Hand, and the three *Calenders*, with the Porter, on her left.

Here says *Scheherazade* to the Sultan, *Sir, What has been hitherto told your Majesty must, without doubt, appear very strange; but what yet remains is more wonderful, and I am persuaded your Majesty will think so, if you will be pleas'd to give me leave to finish the Story next Night;*

Night; the Sultan agreed to it, and got up because it was Day.

The Thirty-fifth Night.

Dinarzade was no sooner awake next Morning, but she called, Sister, if you are not asleep, pray continue the fine Story of the three Sisters. The Sultaneſs remembring where ſhe left off, addreſſed her Speech to the Sultan, and went on as follows: Sir, after *Zobeide* ſat down, the whole Company was ſilent for a-while; at laſt *Saſie*, ſitting on a Chair in the middle of the Room, ſpoke to her Sister *Amine*, Dear Sister, I conjure you to riſe up, you know well enough what I would ſay; *Amine* aroſe, and went into another Cloſet, near to that where the Bitches were, and brought out a Caſe cover'd with yellow Sattin, richly embroider'd with Gold, and green Silk; ſhe came near *Saſie*, and opened the Caſe, from whence ſhe took a Lute and preſented her; and after ſome time ſpent in tuning it, *Saſie* began to play, and accompanying it with her Voice, ſhe ſung a Song about the Torments that Abſence creates to Lovers, with ſo much Sweetneſs, that it charm'd the Califf, and all the Company. Having ſung with a great deal of Paſſion and Action, ſhe ſaid to lovely *Amine*, Pray take it, Sister, for I can do no more, my Voice fails me; oblige the Company with a Tune and a Song in my room. Very willingly, replied *Amine*, who taking the Lute from her Sister *Saſie*, ſat down in her place.

Amine, after ſome ſmall Trial, to ſee whether the Inſtrument was in tune, play'd and ſung almoſt as long upon the ſame Subject, but with ſo

much Vehemency, and was so much affected, or rather transported by the Words of the Song, that her Strength fail'd her as she made an end of it.

Zobeide willing to testify her Satisfaction, said, Sister, you have done Wonders, and we may easily see that you have a Feeling of the Grief you have express'd so much to the Life. *Amine* was prevented from answering this Civility, her Heart being so sensibly touch'd at the same Moment, that she was oblig'd, for Air, to uncover her Neck and Breast, which did not appear so fair as might have been expected from such a Lady as she; but on the contrary, black and full of Scars, which frightened all the Spectators. However, this gave her no ease, but she fell into a Fit. Here *Scheherazade*, stopp'd, saying, Sir, I had almost forgot that it is day. With this she ended her Discourse, and the Sultan arose from Bed. And tho' this Prince had not resolv'd to defer the death of the Sultaneß, he could not, at this time, have resolv'd to take away her Life; his Curiosity was so great to hear out the Story, which had so many unheard-of Events.

The Thirty-sixth Night.

Dinarzade awak'd her Sister as formerly, saying, Dear Sister, I pray you to continue the Story of the Ladies and the *Calenders*; upon which she resum'd her Discourse in the manner following:

While *Zobeide* and *Safie* ran to help their Sister, one of the *Calenders* could not forbear to say, We had better have slept in the Streets, than

than have come hither, had we thought to have seen such Spectacles. The Caliph, who heard this, came up to him and the other *Calenders*, and ask'd them what might be the meaning of all this: They answer'd, Sir, we know no more than you do. What, says the Caliph, are not you of the Family? Nor can you resolve us concerning the two Black Bitches and the Lady that fainted away, and has been so basely abus'd? Sir, say the *Calenders*, this is the first time that ever we were in this House, and came in but a few Minutes before you.

This increased the Caliph's Astonishment: It may be, says he, this other Man that is with you, may know something of it. One of the *Calenders* made a sign for the Porter to come near; and ask'd him, whether he knew why those two Black Bitches had been whipt, and why *Amine's* Bosom was so scarr'd. Sir, said the Porter, I can swear by Heaven, that if you know nothing of all this, I know as little as you do. 'Tis true, I live in this City, but I never was in the House till now, and if you are surpriz'd to see me here, I am as much to find my self in your Company; and that which increases my Wonder is, That I have not seen one Man with these Ladies.

The Caliph and his Company, as well as the *Calenders*, supposed the Porter had been one of the Family, and hoped he could inform them of what they desired to know; but finding he could not, and resolving to satisfy his Curiosity, cost what it would, he says to the rest, Look ye, we are here seven Men, and have but three Women to deal with, let us try if we can oblige them to satisfy us, and if they refuse it
by

by fair means, we are in a Capacity to force them to it.

The Grand Visier *Giafar* was against this Method, and shew'd the Califf what might be the Consequence of it? but without discovering the Prince to the *Calenders*, address'd him as if he had been a Merchant, thus: Sir, consider, I pray you, that our Reputation lies at stake, you know very well upon what Conditions these Ladies were willing to receive us, and that we also agreed to them; what will they say of us if we break them? We shall be still more to blame, if any Mischief befall us, for it is not likely that they would demand such a Promise of us, if they did not know themselves in a Condition to make us repent the breaking of it.

Here the Visier took the Califf aside, and whisper'd to him thus: Sir, the Night will soon be at an end, and if your Majesty will only be pleas'd to have so much Patience, I will take these Ladies to-morrow Morning, and bring 'em before your Throne, where you may be inform'd of all that you desire to know. Tho' this Advice was very judicious, the Califf reject'd it, bid the Visier hold his tongue, and said, He would not stay till then, but would have Satisfaction in the matter presently.

The next Business was to know who should carry the Message. The Califf endeavour'd to prevail with the *Calenders* to speak first; but they excus'd themselves, and at last they agreed that the Porter should be the Man: And as they were consulting how to word this fatal Question, *Zobeide* return'd from her Sister *Amine*, who was recover'd of her Fit, drew near them; and having over-heard them, speaking pretty loud,

loud, and with some Passion says, Gentlemen, What is the Subject of your Discourse, what are you disputing about?

The Porter answered immediately, Madam, these Gentlemen pray you to let them understand wherefore you wept over your two Bitches, after you whipt them so severely, and how that Lady's Bosom who lately fainted away, comes to be so full of Scars? This is what I am order'd to ask in their Name

At these Words *Zobeide* look'd with a stern Countenance, and turning towards the Califf and the rest of the Company, Is this true, Gentlemen, says she, that you have given him order to ask me this Question? All of them, except the Visier *Giafar*, who spoke not one Word, answer'd, Yes. On which she told them, in a Tone that sufficiently express'd her Resentment, before we granted you the Favour of being receiv'd into our House, and to prevent all Occasion of Trouble from you, because we are alone, we did it upon condition that you should not speak of any thing that did not concern you, lest you might come to hear that which would not please you; and yet after having receiv'd and entertain'd you as well as possibly we could, you make no scruple to break your Promise. 'Tis true, that our easy Temper has occasion'd this, but that shall not excuse you, for your Proceedings are very unhandsome. As she spoke these Words, she gave three hard Knocks with her Foot, and clapping her Hands as often together, cry'd, *Come quick*: Upon this a Door flew open, and seven strong sturdy black Slaves, with Scimeters in their Hands, rush'd in, every one seized a Man, threw him on the Ground, and dragg'd him
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into the middle of the Room, in order to cut off their heads.

We may easily conceive what a Fright the Caliph was in, he then repented, but too late, that he had not taken his Vizier's Advice. In the mean time this unhappy Prince, *Giasar*, *Mesfour*, the Porter, and the *Calenders*, were upon the point of losing their Lives by their indiscreet Curiosity. But before they would strike the fatal Blow, one of the Slaves says to *Zobeide*, and her Sisters; High, Mighty, and Adorable Mistresses, do you command us to cut their Throats? Stay, says *Zobeide*, I must examine them first. The frightened Porter interrupted her thus: In the Name of Heaven don't make me die for another Man's Crime. I am innocent; they are to blame. Alas! says he crying, How pleasantly did we pass our time! those blind *Calenders* are the Cause of this Misfortune; there's no Town in the World but goes to ruin where-ever these inauspicious Fellows come. Madam, I beg you not to destroy the Innocent with the Guilty, and consider, that it is more glorious to pardon such a Wretch as I, who have no way to help my self, than to sacrifice me to your Resentment.

Zobeide, notwithstanding her Anger, could not but laugh within her self at the Porter's Lamentation: But without answering him, she spoke a second time to the rest; Answer me, says she, and tell me who you are, otherwise you shall not live one Moment longer. I cannot believe you to be honest Men, nor Persons of Authority or Distinction in your own Countries; for if you were, you would have been more modest and more respectful to us.

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The Caliph, who was naturally impatient, was infinitely more impatient than the rest, to find his Life to depend upon the Command of a Lady justly incens'd; but he begun to conceive some Hopes, when he saw she would know who they all were: For he imagin'd she would not take away his Life, when once she came to be inform'd who he was; therefore he spoke with a low Voice to the Visier, who was near him, to declare speedily who he was: But the Visier being more prudent, resolv'd to save his Master's Honour, and not let the World know the Affront he had brought upon himself by his own Weakness; and therefore answer'd, *We have what we deserve.* But if he would have spoke in obedience to the Caliph, *Zobeide* did not give him time: For having turn'd to the *Calenders*, and seeing them all three blind of one Eye, she ask'd if they were Brothers. One of them answer'd, No, Madam, no otherwise than as we are *Calenders*; that is to say, as we observe the same Rules. Were you born blind of the Right Eye, replied she? No, Madam, answers he, I lost my Eye in such a surprizing Adventure, that it would be instructive to every body were it in Writing: After that Misfortune I shav'd my Beard and Eye-Brows, and took the Habit of a *Calender*, which I now wear.

Zobeide ask'd the other two *Calenders* the same Question, and had the same Answer; but he who spoke last added, Madam, to shew you that we are no common Fellows, and that you may have some Consideration for us, be pleas'd to know that we are all three Sons of Kings; and tho' we never met together till this Evening, yet we have had time enough to
make

make that known to one another; and I assure you that the Kings from whom we derive our Being, made some noise in the World.

At this Discourse *Zobeide* assuag'd her Anger, and said to the Slaves, Give them their Liberty a while, but stay here. Those who tell us their History, and the occasion of their coming, do them no hurt, let them go where they please, but don't spare those who refuse to give us that Satisfaction. Here *Scheherazade* stopt, and her Silence as well as day-light giving the Sultan to know, that it was time for him to rise, he got up, and resolv'd to hear the rest of the Story next night; for he was impatient to know who these three one-ey'd *Calenders* were.

The Thirty-seventh Night.

*D**Inarzade*, who also took a great deal of pleasure to hear the Sultaneſs's Stories, ſays to her, about the Cloſe of the following Night, Dear Siſter, if you be not aſleep, I conjure you to go on with the agreeable Story of the three *Calenders*.

Scheherazade demanded leave of the Sultan, and having obtain'd it: Sir, ſays ſhe, the three *Calenders*, the Califf, the Grand Viſier *Giaſar*, the Eunuch *Meſrour*, and the Porter, were all in the middle of the Hall, ſat upon a Foot-carpet in preſence of the three Ladies, who ſat upon a Sofa, and the Slaves ſtood ready to do whatever their Miſtreſſes ſhould command.

The Porter underſtanding that he might rid himſelf of his danger, by telling his Hiſtory, ſpoke firſt, and ſaid, Madam, you know my
Hiſtory

History already, and the occasion of my coming hither; so that what I have to say, will be very short. My Lady, your Sister there, call'd me this Morning, at the Place where I ply'd as Porter, to see if any body will employ me, that I might get Bread, I follow'd her to a Vintner's, then to an Herb-Woman's, then to one that sold Oranges, Limons and Citrons, then to a Grocer's, next to a Confectioner's, and a Druggist's, with my Basket upon my Head as full as I was able to carry it; then I came hither, where you had the Goodness to suffer me to continue till now, a Favour that I shall never forget. This, Madam, is my History.

When the Porter had done, *Zobeide* says to him, Go, march, let's see you no more here. Madam, replies the Porter, I beg you to let me stay, it would not be just, after the rest have had the pleasure to hear my History, that I should not also have the Satisfaction to hear theirs. And having spoke thus, sat him down at the end of the Sofa, glad to the heart to have escap'd the danger, that had frightned him so much. After him, one of the three *Calenders* directing his Speech to *Zobeide*, as the principal of the three Ladies, and the Person that commanded him to speak, began his Story thus:

*The History of the First Calender,
a King's Son.*

MADAM, in order to inform you how I lost my right Eye, and why I was obliged to put my self into a *Calender's* Habit, I must tell you, that I am a King's Son born, the

the King my Father had a Brother that reigned as he did, over a neighbouring Kingdom; and the Prince his Son and I were almost of an Age.

After I had learned my Exercises, and that the King my Father granted me such Liberty as suited my Dignity, I went orderly every Year to see my Uncle, at whose Court I diverted my self during a Month or two, and then returned again to my Father's. These several Journeys gave occasion of contracting a very firm and particular Friendship between the Prince my Cousin and my self. The last time I saw him he receiv'd me with greater Demonstrations of Tenderneſs than he had done at any time before; and resolving one day to give me a Treat, he made great Preparations for that purpose. We continued a long time at Table, and after we had both suppd very well; Cousin (says he) you will hardly be able to guess how I have been employ'd since your last Departure from hence, now about a Year past. I have had a great many Men at work to perfect a Design I have in my Mind; I have caus'd an Edifice to be built, which is now finished, so as one may dwell in it: You will not be displeas'd if I shew it you. But first you are to promise me upon Oath, that you will keep my Secret, according to the Confidence I repose in you.

The Love and Familiarity that was between us, would not allow me to refuse him any thing. I very readily took the Oath he required of me: Upon which he says to me, Stay here till I return, I will be with you in a Moment; and accordingly he came with a Lady in his Hand, of a singular Beauty, and magnificently apparell'd:

parell'd: He did not discover who she was, neither did I think it was Manners in me to make inquiry. We sat down again with this Lady at Table, where we continued some time, entertaining our selves with Discourses upon indifferent Subjects; and now and then a full Glas to drink one another's Health. After which the Prince said, Cousin, we must lose no Time, therefore pray oblige me to take this Lady along with you, and conduct her to such a Place, where you will see a Tomb newly built in form of a Dome; you will easily know it, the Gate is open, go in there together, and tarry till I come, which will be very speedily.

Being true to my Oath, I made no farther Inquiry, but took the Lady by the Hand, and by the Directions which the Prince, my Cousin, had given me, I brought her to the Place, by the Light of the Moon, without missing one step of the Way. We were scarcely got thither, till we saw the Prince following after, carrying a little Pitcher with Water, a Hatchet, and a little Bag with Plaister.

The Hatchet serv'd him to break down the empty Sepulchre in the middle of the Tomb; he took away the Stones one after another, and laid them in a Corner: When all this was taken away, he digg'd up the Ground, where I saw a Trap-door under the Sepulchre, which he lift up, and underneath perceived the Head of a Stair-case leading into a Vault. Then my Cousin, speaking to the Lady, said, Madam, It is by this way, that we are to go to the Place I told you of: Upon which the Lady drew nigh, and went down, and the Prince began to follow after; but turning first to me, said, My dear Cousin, I am infinitely oblig'd to you for
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the Trouble you have been at, I thank you. Adieu. I cried, dear Cousin, What is the meaning of this? Be content, replied he, You may return back the same way you came.

Scheherazade being come this length, saw Day appear, which hinder'd her to proceed any farther. The Sultan got up, but long'd very much to know the Design of the Prince and his Lady, which seem'd as if they had a mind to bury themselves alive, and impatiently waited for next Night, that he might be thorowly inform'd of it.

The Thirty-eighth Night.

Dinarzade awak'd the Sultaness next Night as usual, and pray'd her to continue the History of the first *Calender*. *Schabriar* having also signified to the Sultaness, that it would be very pleasing to him, she resum'd the thread of her Discourse as follows.

Madam, says the *Calender* to *Zobeide*, I could get nothing farther from him but was oblig'd to take leave of him; as I return'd to my Uncle's Palace, the Vapours of the Wine got up into my Head; however, I got to my Apartment, and went to bed. Next Morning, when I awak'd, I began to reflect upon what befel me the night before, and after recollecting all the Circumstances of such a singular Adventure, I fancied it was nothing but a Dream. Being full of these Thoughts, I sent to see if the Prince, my Cousin, was ready to receive a Visit from me; but when they brought back word that he did not lie in his own Lodgings that night, they knew not what was become of him, and were in much trouble about it, I conceiv'd that the
strange

strange Event of the Tomb was but too true. I was sensibly afflicted at it; and stealing away privately from my People, I went to the publick Burying-place, where there was a vast number of Tombs like that which I had seen: I spent the Day in viewing them one after another, but could not find that I sought for, and thus I spent four Days successively in vain.

You must know that all this while the King, my Uncle, was absent, and had been a hunting for several Days; I grew weary of staying for him, and having pray'd his Ministers to make my Apology to him at his Return, I left his Palace, and set out towards my Father's Court, from which I had never been so long absent before. I left the Ministers of the King my Uncle in great trouble to think what was become of the Prince my Cousin: but because of my Oath I had made to keep his Secret, I durst not tell them any thing of what I had seen or knew, in order to make them easy.

I arriv'd at my Father's Capital, the usual place of his Residence, where, contrary to Custom, I found a great Guard at the Gate of the Palace, who surrounded me as I enter'd. I ask'd the reason, and the commanding Officer replied, Prince, the Army has proclaim'd the Grand Visier King, instead of your Father, who is dead, and I take you Prisoner in the Name of the New King. At these Words the Guards laid hold on me, and carried me before the Tyrant: I leave you to judge, Madam, how much I was surprized and grieved.

This rebel Visier had entertained a mortal Hatred against me of a long time, upon this occasion. When I was a Stripling, I lov'd to shoot in a Cross-bow; and being one day upon
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the Terrace of the Palace with my Bow, a Bird happening to come by, I shot, but miss'd him, and the Ball by Misfortune hit the Vifier, who was taking the air upon the Terrace of his own House, and put out one of his Eyes. As soon as I understood it, I not only sent to make my Excuse to him, but did it in Person: Yet he always resented it, and, as opportunity offer'd, made me sensible of it. But now, Madam, that he had me in his power, he express'd his Resentments in a very barbarous manner; for he came to me like a Mad-man, as soon as ever he saw me, and thrusting his Finger into my right Eye, pull'd it out himself; and so, Madam, I became blind of one Eye.

But the Usurper's Cruelty did not stop here; he order'd me to be shut up in a Box, and commanded the Executioner to carry me into the Country to cut off my Head, and leave me to be devour'd by the Birds of Prey. The Hangman and another, carried me thus shut up on horseback into the Country, in order to execute the Usurper's barbarous Sentence; but by my Prayers and Tears, I mov'd the Executioner's compassion: Go, says he to me, get you speedily out of the Kingdom, and take heed of ever returning to it, otherwise you will certainly meet your own Ruin, and will be the Cause of mine. I thank'd him for the Favour he did me; and as soon as I was left alone, I comforted my self for the loss of my Eye, by considering that I had very narrowly escap'd a much greater danger.

Being in such a condition, I could not travel far at a time, I retir'd to remote Places while it was Day, and travell'd as far by Nights as my Strength would allow me. At last I arriv'd in the Dominions of the King my Uncle, and came to his Capital.

I gave him a long Detail of the tragical Cause of my Return, and of the sad Condition he saw me in. Alas! cried he, was it not enough for me to have lost my Son? but must I have also News of the Death of a Brother I lov'd so dearly, and see you also reduced to this deplorable Condition? He told me how uneasy he was, that he could hear nothing of his Son, notwithstanding all the Diligence and Enquiry he could make. At these Words the unfortunate Father burst out into Tears, and was so much afflicted, that pitying his Grief, it was impossible for me to keep the Secret any longer; so that notwithstanding my Oath to the Prince my Cousin, I told the King his Father all that I knew.

His Majesty listen'd to me with some sort of Comfort, and when I had done, Nephew, says he, what you tell me gives me some hope. I knew that my Son order'd that Tomb to be built, and I can guess pretty near at the Place, and with the Idea you still have of it, I fancy we shall find it: But since he order'd it to be built privately, and took your Oath to keep his Secret, I am of opinion, that we ought to go in quest of it alone, without saying any thing. But he had another Reason for keeping the Matter secret, which he did not then tell me, and an important Reason it was, as you will perceive by the Sequel of my Discourse.

We both of us disguis'd our selves, and went out by a Door of the Garden which open'd into the Field, and soon found what we sought for. I knew the Tomb, and was so much the more rejoic'd at it, because I had formerly sought it a long time in vain. We enter'd, and found the Iron Trap pull'd down upon the Entrance of

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the Stair-case; we had much ado to raise it, because the Prince had fasten'd it on the Inside with the Water and Morter formerly mention'd, but at last we did get it up.

The King, my Uncle, went down first, I follow'd, and we went down about fifty Steps. When we came to the foot of the Stairs, we found a Sort of Anti-chamber, full of a thick Smoke, and ill Scent, which obscur'd the Lamp that gave a very fine Light.

From this Anti-chamber, we came into another, very large, supported by great Columns, and lighted by several branched Candlesticks. There was a Cistern in the Middle, and Provisions of several sorts standing on one Side of it; but we were very much surpriz'd to see no body. Before us there appear'd an high Sofa, which we mounted by several Steps, and over this, there appear'd a very large Bed, with the Curtains drawn close. The King went up, and opening the Curtains, perceiv'd the Prince his Son, and the Lady, in Bed together, but burnt and chang'd to a Coal, as if they had been thrown into a great Fire, and taken out again before they were consum'd.

But that which surpriz'd me most of all was, that this Spectacle, which fill'd me with Horror, the King my Uncle, instead of testifying his Sorrow to see the Prince, his Son, in such a frightful Condition, spit on his Face, and says to him with an angry Air, *This is the Punishment of this World, but that of the other will last to Eternity*; and not content with this, he pull'd off his Sandal, and gave his Son a great Blow on the Cheek with it.

But, Sir, says *Scheherazade*, it is day; I am sorry your Majesty's time will not allow you to hear

hear me farther: This History appearing very strange to the Sultan, he got up and resolv'd to hear the rest of it next Night.

The Thirty-ninth Night.

Dinarzade being awake sooner than ordinary, call'd her Sister *Scheherazade*, My good Sultaneſs, ſaid ſhe, I pray you make an end of the Story of the firſt *Calender*, for I'm ready to die with Impatience till I know the Iſſue of it. Very well then, ſaid *Scheherazade*, You remember how the firſt *Calender* continu'd his Story to *Zobeide*; I cannot enough expreſs, Madam (ſaid he) how much I was aſtoniſh'd when I ſaw the King my Uncle, abuſe the Prince his Son thus after he was dead. Sir, ſaid I, whatever Grief this diſmal Sight is capable to impreſs upon me, I am forced to ſuſpend it, on purpoſe to aſk your Majeſty what crime the Prince my Couſin may have committed, that his Corps ſhould deſerve this ſort of Treatment? Nephew, replied the King, I muſt tell you, that my Son (who is unworthy of that Name) lov'd his Siſter from his Infancy, and ſo ſhe did him: I did not hinder their growing Love, becauſe I did not foreſee the pernicious Conſequence of it. This Tenderneſs increas'd as they grew in Years, and came to ſuch a Head, that I dreaded the end of it at laſt. I applied ſuch Remedies as were in my power; I not only gave my Son a ſevere Reprimand in private, laying before him the foulneſs of the Paſſion he was entertaining, and the eternal Diſgrace he would bring upon my Family, if he perſiſted in ſuch criminal Cour-

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ses; but I also represented the same thing to my Daughter; and besides, I shut her up so close, that she could have no Conversation with her Brother. But that unfortunate Creature had swallowed so much of the Poison, that all the Obstacles which by my Prudence I could lay in the way, serv'd only the more to inflame her Love.

My Son being persuaded of his Sister's Constancy, on pretence of building a Tomb, caus'd this subterraneous Habitation to be made, in hopes to find one day or other, an Opportunity to possess himself of that Object which was the cause of his Flame, and to bring her hither. He laid hold on the time of my Absence, to enter by force into the place of his Sister's Confinement: But that is a thing which my Honour would not suffer me to make publick. And after so damnable an Action, he came and inclos'd himself and her in this place, which he has supplied, as you see, with all sorts of Provisions, that he might enjoy his detestable pleasures for a long time, which ought to be a subject of Horror to all the World: But God that would not suffer such an Abomination, has justly punish'd them both. At these words he melted into Tears, and I joined mine with his.

After a while, casting his Eyes upon me, Dear Nephew, cry'd he, embracing me, if I have lost that unworthy Son, I shall happily find in you what will better supply his place. And upon some other Reflections he made on the doleful end of the Prince and Princess his Daughter, we both fell into a new Fit of weeping.

We went up the same Stairs again, and departed at last from that dismal place. We let down again the Trap-door, and cover'd it with Earth,

Earth, and such other Material's as the Tomb was built of, on purpose to hide, as much as lay in our power, so terrible an Effect of the Wrath of God.

We had not been very long got back to the Palace, unperceiv'd by any one, but we heard a confused Noise of Trumpets, Drums, and other Instruments of War: We soon understood by the thick Cloud of Dust, which almost darkened the Air, that it was the Arrival of a formidable Army. And it prov'd to be the same Visier that had dethron'd my Father, and usurped his Throne, who with a vast number of Troops, was also come to possess himself of that of the King my Uncle.

That Prince, who then had only his usual Guards about him, could not resist so many Enemies; they invested the City, and the Gates being open'd to them without any resistance, they very soon became Masters of the City, and broke into the Palace where the King my Uncle was, who defended himself till he was kill'd, and sold his Life at a dear rate: For my part, I fought as well as I could for a while, but seeing we were forc'd to submit to a superior power, I thought on my Retreat and Safety, which I had the good Fortune to effect by some back ways, and got to one of the King's Servants, on whose Fidelity I could depend.

Being thus surrounded with Sorrows and persecuted by Fortune, I had recourse to a Stratagem, which was the only means left me to save my Life; I caused my Beard and Eye-brows to be shav'd, and putting on a *Calender's* Habit, I pass'd, unknown by any, out of the City: After that, by degrees, I found it easy to get out of my Uncle's Kingdom, by taking the By-road.

I avoided passing thro' Towns, until I was got into the Empire of the mighty Governor of the Mussulmen, the glorious and renown'd Califf *Haroun Alraschid*, when I thought my self out of danger, and considering what I was to do, I resolv'd to come to *Bagdad*, intending to throw my self at that Monarch's Feet, whose Generosity is every where applauded. I shall move him to compassion, said I to my self, by the relation of my surprizing Misfortunes, and without doubt he will take pity on such an unfortunate Prince, and not suffer me to implore his Assistance in vain.

In short, after a Journey of several Months, I arrived yesterday at the Gate of this City, into which I enter'd about the Dusk of the Evening, and standing still a little while to revive my Spirits, and to consider on which hand I was to turn, this other *Calender* you see here next to me, came also along; he saluted me, and I him: You appear, said I, to be a Stranger as I am: You are not mistaken, replied he. He had no sooner return'd this Answer, but this third *Calender* you see there overtook us. He saluted us, and told us, he was a Stranger newly come to *Bagdad*; so that as Brethren we join'd together, resolving not to separate from one another.

Mean while it was late, and we knew not where to seek a Lodging in the City where we had no Acquaintance, or had never been before. But good Fortune having brought us before your Gate, we made bold to knock, when you receiv'd us with so much Kindness, that we are incapable to return you suitable Thanks. This, Madam, (said he) is in Obedience to your Commands, the Account I am to give you

you why I lost my right Eye, wherefore my Beard and Eye-brows are shav'd, and how I came to be with you at this present time.

'Tis enough, says *Zobeide*, you may retire to what place you think fit. The *Calender* made his Excuse, and beg'd the Ladies leave to stay till he had heard the Relations of his two Comrades, whom I cannot (says he) leave with Honour; and till he might also hear those of the three other Persons that were in Company.

Here *Scheherazade* said to the Sultan, Sir, The Day-light which I see, prevents me from going on with the Story of the second *Calender*; but if your Majesty will hear it to-morrow, you will find as much Satisfaction in that, as in this Story, of the first. To which the Sultan gave consent, and so got up, in order to go to Council.

The Fortieth Night.

Dinarzade not doubting to find as much delight in the Story of the second *Calender*, as she had in the first, fail'd not to call upon the Sultaness before day. If you be not asleep, Sister, said she, I would pray you to begin the Story that you promis'd: Upon which, *Scheherazade* address'd her Discourse to the Sultan, and spoke as follows:

Sir, The Story of the first *Calender* seem'd very strange to the whole Company, but especially to the Califf, who notwithstanding the Slaves stood by with their Scimiters in their Hands, could not forbear whispering to the Vifier: Many Stories have I heard, but never

any thing that came near the Story of the *Calender*. Whilst he was saying this, the second *Calender* began, addressing his Speech to *Zobeide*.

*The Story of the Second Calender,
a King's Son.*

MADAM, said he, to obey your Command, and to show you by what strange accident I became blind of the right Eye, I must of necessity give you the whole account of my Life.

I was scarce past my Infancy when the King my Father (for you must know, Madam, I am a Prince by Birth) perceiv'd that I was endow'd with a great deal of Sense, and spared nothing that was proper for improving it; he employ'd all the Men in his Dominions that excell'd in Sciences and Arts, to be constantly about me.

No sooner had I learnt to read and write, but I learn'd the Alcoran from the beginning to the end by heart. That admirable Book, which contains the Foundation, the Precepts and the Rules of our Religion: And that I might be thorowly instructed in it, I read the Works of the most approved Authors, by whose Commentaries it had been explained. I added to this study, that of all the Traditions collected from the Mouth of our Prophet, by the great Men that were co-temporary with him. I was not satisfied with the Knowledge alone of all that had any relation to our Religion, but made also a particular Search in our Histories. I made my self perfect in polite Learning, in
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the Works of Poets and Versification. I applied my self to Geography, to Chronology, and to speak our *Arabian* Language in its Purity; not forgetting, in the mean time, all such Exercises as were proper for a Prince to understand. But one thing which I was mightily in love with, and succeeded in to Admiration, was, to form the Characters of our *Arabian* Language, wherein I surpassed all the Writing-Masters of our Kingdom that had acquired the greatest Reputation.

Fame did me more Honour than I deserved, for she not only spread the Renown of my Parts thro' all the Dominions of the King my Father, but carried it as far as the *Indian* Court, whose Potent Monarch, desirous to see me, sent an Embassador with rich Presents, to demand me of my Father, who was extreme glad of this Embassy for several Reasons; he was persuaded that nothing could be more commendable in a Prince of my Age, than to travel and see foreign Courts; and besides, he was very glad to gain the Friendship of the *Indian* Sultan. I departed with the Embassador, but with no great Retinue, because of the Length and Difficulty of the Journey.

When we had travell'd about a Month, we discover'd at a distance a great Cloud of Dust, and under that we saw very soon 50 Horsemen well armed, that were Robbers coming toward us at a full Gallop. *Scheherazade* perceiving Day, told the Sultan of it, who got up; but desiring to know what past between the 50 Men on horseback, and the *Indian* Ambassador, this Prince was somewhat impatient till next Night came.

The Forty first Night.

IT was almost day when *Dinarzade* awak'd next Morning, and call'd to her Sister, If you be not asleep, dear Sister, I pray you continue the Story of the Second *Calender*. *Scheherazade* began in this manner.

Madam, says the *Calender*, (always speaking to *Zobeide*) as we had ten Horses laden with Baggage and other Presents, that I was to carry to the *Indian* Sultan, from the King my Father, and that my Retinue was but small, you may easily judge that these Robbers came boldly up to us; and not being in a Posture to make any Opposition, we told them that they were Embassadors, belonging to the Sultan of the *Indies*, and hoped they would attempt nothing contrary to the Respect that is due to them, thinking by this means to save our Equipage and our Lives: But the Robbers most insolently replied, *For what Reason would you have us shew any Respect to the Sultan your Master? we are none of his Subjects, nor are we upon his Territories*: And having spoke thus, they surrounded and fell upon us: I defended my self as long as I could; but finding my self wounded, and seeing the Embassador with his Servants and mine lying on the Ground, I made use of what Strength was yet remaining in my Horse, who was also very much wounded, and separated my self from the Croud, and rode away as fast as he could carry me; but he happening all of a sudden to fall under me, by Weariness and the loss of Blood, he fell down dead. I got rid of him in a Trice; and finding that I was pursu'd

pursu'd, it made me judge the Robbers were not willing to quit the Booty they had got.

Scheherazade perceiving day coming on, was oblig'd to stop here. Oh Sister, said *Dinarzade*, to-morrow I shall be more diligent, in hopes you will make Reparation to the Sultan for the loss that his Curiosity has sustain'd thro' my Neglect. *Schahriar* arose without saying one Word, and went to his usual Consultation.

The Forty-second Night.

Dinarzade fail'd not to call the Sultaness a good while before day: My dear Sister, says she, if you be not asleep, I pray you resume the Story of the *Calender*; I consent to it, said *Scheherazade*; and so continu'd in these Words:

Here you see me, said the *Calender*, all alone wounded, destitute of all Help, and in a strange Country; I durst not betake my self to the high Road, fearing I might fall again into the hands of these Robbers. When I had bound up my Wound, which was not dangerous, I march'd on the rest of the day, and arrived at the Foot of a Mountain, where I perceiv'd a Passage into a Cave; I went in, and stay'd there that Night with little Satisfaction, after I had eaten some Fruits that I gather'd by the way.

I continued my Journey for several Days following, without finding any Place of Abode: but after a Month's time I came to a large Town well inhabited, and situated so much the more advantageously, that it was surrounded with several Rivers, so that it enjoyed a perpetual Spring.

The pleasant Objects which then presented themselves to my View, afforded me some Joy, and suspended for some time the mortal Sorrow with which I was overwhelm'd, to find my self in such a Condition. My Face, Hands and Feet were all tawny and sun-burnt, and by my long Journey my Shoes and Stockings were quite worn out, so that I was forc'd to walk bare-footed; and besides, my Clothes were all in Rags. I entered into the Town to inform my self where I was, and address'd my self to a Taylor that was at work in his Shop; who perceiving by my Air that I was a Person of more Note than my outward Appearance bespoke me to be, made me to sit down by him, and ask'd me who I was, and from whence I came, and what had brought me thither? I did not conceal any thing of all that had befall'n me, nor made I any Scruple to discover my Quality.

The Taylor listen'd with Attention to my Words; but after I had done speaking, instead of giving me any Consolation, he augmented my Sorrow: Take heed, says he, how you discover to any Person what you have now declared to me; for the Prince of this Country is the greatest Enemy that the King your Father has, and he will certainly do you some mischief, when he comes to hear of your being in this City. I made no doubt of the Taylor's Sincerity, when he named the Prince: But since that Enmity which is between my Father and him has no relation to my Adventures, I must beg your pardon, Madam, to pass it over with Silence.

I return'd the Taylor Thanks for his good Advice, and shew'd my self inclinable wholly to follow his Counsel, and assur'd him that his
Favours

Favours should never be forgot by me. And as he believed I could not but be hungry, he caused them to bring me somewhat to eat, and offered me at the same time, a Lodging in his House, which I accepted. Some days after, finding me pretty well recovered of the Fatigue I had endured by a long and tedious Journey; and besides, being sensible that most Princes of our Religion did apply themselves to some Art or Calling, that might stand them in stead upon Occasion, he asked me, if I had learned any thing whereby I might get a Livelihood, and not be burdensome to any Man? I told him that I understood the Laws, both divine and human; that I was a Grammarian, and Poet; and above all, that I understood Writing perfectly well. By all this, says he, you will not be able, in this Country, to purchase yourself one Morsel of Bread; nothing is of less Use here than those Sciences: But if you will be advised by me, says he, dress yourself in a Labourer's Habit; and since you appear to be strong, and of a good Constitution, you shall go into the next Forest and cut down Fire-Wood, which you may bring to the Market to be sold; and I can assure you it will turn to so good an Account, that you may live by it, without Dependence upon any Man: And by this means, you will be in a Condition to wait for the favourable Minute, when Heaven shall think fit to dispel those Clouds of Misfortune that thwart your Happiness, and oblige you to conceal your Birth; I will take care to supply you with a Rope and a Hatchet.

The Fear of being known, and the Necessity I was under of getting a Livelihood, made me agree to this Proposal, notwithstanding all the Mean-

Meanness and Hardships that attend it. The Day following, the Taylor brought me a Rope, a Hatchet and a short Coat, and recommended me to some poor People that gain'd their Bread after the same manner, that they might take me into their Company. They conducted me to the Wood, and the first Day I brought in as much upon my Head as brought me half a Piece of Gold, which is the Money of that Country: For tho' the Wood is not far distant from the Town, yet it was very scarce there by reason that few or none would be at the trouble to go and cut it. I gain'd a good Sum of Money in short time, and repaid my Taylor what he advanced for me.

I continu'd this Way of Living for a whole Year; and one Day that by chance I was gone farther into the Wood than usual, I happen'd to light on a very pleasant Place, where I began to cut down Wood; and in pulling up the Root of a Tree, I espied an Iron Ring, fasten'd to a Trap-Door of the same Metal. I took away the Earth that cover'd it; and having lift it up, saw Stairs, which I went down with my Ax in my Hand.

When I was come to the Bottom of the Stairs, I found my self in a large Palace, which put me in a mighty Consternation, because of the great Light, which appear'd as clear in it, as if it had been above ground in the open Air. I went forward along a Gallery, supported by Pillars of Jaspis, the Basis and Chapter of massy Gold: But seeing a Lady of a noble and free Air, and extraordinary beautiful, coming towards me; this turn'd my Eyes from beholding any other Object but her alone.

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Here *Scheherazade* stopp'd, because Day appeared: But *Dinarzade* said, Dear Sister, I confess I am extremely well-pleas'd with what you have told us to-day, and I do imagine that the following Part must be no less surprizing. You are not mistaken, said the Sultaneß, for the remainder of this Story of the Second *Calendar* is better worth my Lord the Sultan's Attention, than all that he has hitherto heard. I doubt that, says *Schabriar*, (as he was getting up) but we shall know that to-morrow.

The Forty-third Night.

THE Sultaneß being awak'd, as usual, gave the Sultan an Account, that the Second *Calendar* continu'd the Story thus: Being desirous (says he) to spare the Lady the Trouble to come to me, I made haste to meet her: and as I was saluting her with a low Bow, she ask'd me, What are you, a Man or a *Genie*? A Man, Madam, said I: I have no Correspondence with *Genies*. By what Adventure, said she, (fetching a deep Sigh) are you come hither? I have liv'd here these twenty-five Years, and never saw any Man but your self, during that Time.

Her great Beauty, which had already smitten me, and the Sweetness and Civility wherewith she received me, made me bold to say to her, Madam, before I have the Honour to satisfy your Curiosity, give me leave to tell you, that I am infinitely satisfi'd with this unexpected Rencounter, which offers me an Occasion of Consolation in the midst of my Affliction; and perhaps it may give me an Opportunity to make you also more happy than you are. I gave her a true
Account

Account by what strange Accident, she saw me, the Son of a King, in such a Condition as I then appear'd in her Presence ; and how Fortune would have it, that I should discover the Entrance into that magnificent Prison, where I had found her, but in an uneasy Condition, according to Appearance.

Alas ! Prince, said she, (sighing once more) you have just Cause to believe, this rich and pompous Prison cannot be otherwise than a most wearisome Abode ; the most charming Places in the World being no wise delightful when we are detain'd there contrary to our Will. It's not possible but you have heard of the great Epitimaros, King of the Isle of Ebene, so called from that precious Wood it produces in abundance ; I am the Princess his Daughter.

The King my Father had chosen for me a Husband, a Prince that was my Cousin ; but on my Wedding-Night, in the midst of the Rejoicing, there was in the Court, and the Capital City of the Kingdom of the Isle of Ebene, before I was given to my Spouse, a *Genie*, who took me away. I fainted at the same Moment, and lost all my Senses ; but when I came to my self again, I found my self in this Place. I was a long time inconsolable, but Time and Necessity have accustom'd me to see and receive the *Genie*. 'Tis 25 Years, as I told you before, that I have continued in this Place, where, I must confess, I have every thing that I can wish for, necessary to Life, and also every thing that can satisfy a Princess that loves nothing but fine Dresses and Fashions.

Every ten Days, says the Princess, the *Genie* comes hither to lie with me one Night, which he never exceeds ; and the Excuse he makes for it is, that he is married to another Wife, who

who would grow jealous, if she came to know how unfaithful he was to her: Mean while, if I have occasion for him by Day or Night, as soon as I touch a Talisman, which is at the Entrance into my Chamber, the *Genie* appears. It is now the fourth Day since he was here, and I do not expect him before the end of six more; so, if you please, you may stay five Days and keep me Company, and I will endeavour to entertain you according to your Quality and Merit. I thought my self too fortunate, to have obtained so great a Favour without asking it, to refuse so obliging a proffer. The Princess made me go into a Bagnio, which was the most handsome, the most commodious, and the most sumptuous, that could be imagin'd; and when I came forth, instead of my own Clothes, I found another very costly Suit, which I did not esteem so much for its richness, as that it made me look worthy to be in her Company. We sat down on a Sofa cover'd with rich Tapestry, with Cushions to lean upon of the rarest *Indian* Brocard; and some time after, she cover'd a Table with several Dishes of delicate Meats. We eat together, and passed the remaining part of the Day with very much Satisfaction; and at Night she received me into her Bed.

The next Day, as she contriv'd all manner of ways to please me, she brought in, at Dinner, a Bottle of old Wine, the most excellent that ever was tasted, and out of Complaisance, she drank some part of it with me. When my head grew hot with the agreeable Liquor, Fair Princess, said I, you have been too long thus buried alive, come follow me, and enjoy the real Day, from which you have been deprived so many Years, and abandon this false light, that
you

you have here. Prince, replied she with a smile, leave this Discourse, if you out of ten Days will grant me nine, and resign the last to the *Genie*, the fairest Day that ever was would be nothing in my Esteem. Princess, said I, it's the Fear of the *Genie* that makes you speak thus; for my part, I value him so little, that I will break his Talisman, with the Conjuraton that's wrote about it, in pieces. Let him come then, I will expect him, and how brave or redoubtable soever he be, I shall make him feel the Weight of my Arm: I swear solemnly, that I will extirpate all the *Genies* in the World, and him first. The Princess, who knew the consequence, conjur'd me not to touch the Talisman, for that would be a means, said she, to ruin both you and me; I know what belongs to *Genies* better than you. The Fumes of the Wine did not suffer me to hearken to her Reasons; but I gave the Talisman a kick with my Foot, and broke it in several pieces.

At these words *Scheherazade* perceiving Day, grew silent, and the Sultan got up, not doubting but the breaking of the Talisman had some remarkable Event, and therefore resolved to hear that Story to the end.

The Forty-fourth Night.

Dinarzade being awake somewhat before Day, says to the Sultaneſs, Sister, if you be not asleep, I pray you acquaint us with what happen'd in the subterranean Palace, after the Prince had broke the Talisman. I am just going to relate it, said *Scheherazade*. Upon which re-assuming her Narrative, she continu'd her Discourse thus, in the Person of the Second *Calender*.
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The Talisman was no sooner broke, but the Palace began to shake, and was ready to fall, with a hideous Noise like Thunder, accompanied with Flashes of Lightning, and a great Darknes. This terrible Noise in a moment dispell'd the Fumes of my Wine, and made me sensible, but too late, of the Folly I had committed. Princess, cried I, what means all this? She answer'd in a Fright, and without any concern for her own Misfortune, Alas! you're undone if you do not escape presently.

I followed her Advice, and my Fears were so great, that I forgot my Hatchet and Cords. I was scarcely got to the Stairs by which I came down, till the enchanted Palace open'd at once, and made Passage for the Genie: He ask'd the Princess in great Anger, What has happen'd to you, and why did you call me? *A Qualm at my Stomach*, said the Princess, *made me fetch this Bottle which you see here, out of which I drank twice or thrice, and by mischance made a false Step, and fell upon the Talisman, which is broke, and that is all the matter.*

At this Answer, the furious Genie told her, *You are a false Woman, and a Lyar; How came that Ax, and those Ropes there? I never saw them till this moment*, said the Princess. *Your coming in such an impetuous manner, has, it may be, forc'd them up in some place as you came along, and so brought them hither without your knowing it.*

The Genie made no other Answer but what was accompanied with Reproaches and Blows, of which I heard the noise. I could not endure to hear the pitiful Cries and Shouts of the Princess so cruelly abus'd; I had already laid off the Suit she made me put on, and took my own

own, which I had laid on the Stairs the day before, when I came out of the Bagnio : I made haste up Stairs, being so much the more full of Sorrow and Compassion, that I had been the Cause of so great a Misfortune, and that by sacrificing the fairest Princess upon Earth to the Barbarity of a merciless *Genie*, I was become the most criminal and ungrateful of all Mankind. 'Tis true, said I, she has been a Prisoner these 25 Years; but, setting liberty aside, she wanted nothing that could make her happy. My Madness has put an end to our Happiness, and brought her under the Cruelty of an unmerciful Devil ; I let down the Trap-door, cover'd it again with Earth, and return'd to the City with a Burden of Wood, which I bound up without knowing what I did ; so great was my Trouble and Sorrow.

My Landlord, the Taylor, was very much rejoic'd to see me ; Your Absence, said he, has disquieted me very much, by reason you had entrusted me with the Secret of your Birth, and I knew not what to think ; I was afraid some body had known you ; God be thank'd for your Return. I thanked him for his Zeal and Affection, but never a word durst I say of what had past, nor the reason why I came back without my Hatcher and Cords.

I retir'd to my Chamber, where I reproach'd my self a thousand times for my excessive Imprudence : Nothing (said I) could have parallel'd the Princess's good Fortune and mine, had I forborn to break the Talisman.

While I was thus giving my self over to melancholy Thoughts, the Taylor came in, and told me, An old Man, said he, whom I do not know, brings me here your Hatcher and
Cords,

Cords, which he found in his way, as he tells me, and understood by your Comrades that go along with you to the Woods, that you lodge here; come out and speak to him, for he will deliver them to none but your self.

At this Discourse, I chang'd colour, and fell a trembling: While the Taylor was asking me the reason, my Chamber-floor open'd at once, and the old Man, having no patience to stay, appeared to us with my Hatchet and Cords. This was the *Genie*, the Ravisher of the fair Princess of the Isle of *Ebene*, who had thus disguis'd himself, after he had treated her with the utmost Barbarity. I am a *Genie*, said he, Son of the Daughter of *Eblis*, Prince of *Genies*: Is not this your Hatchet, said he, speaking to me, and are not these your Cords?

Here *Scheherazade* saw Day, and left off. The Sultan found the Story of the second *Calender* too curious, not to desire that he might hear it out; and therefore got up, with an Intention to hear the rest next Morning.

The Forty fifth Night.

THE Day following, *Dinarzade* call'd upon the Sultaneſs, My dear Sister, pray tell us how the *Genie* treated the Prince. I will satisfy your Curiosity, replied *Scheherazade*; and then re-assum'd her Story of the second *Calender*, thus:

The *Calender* continuing his Discourse to *Zobeide*, Madam, says he, after the *Genie* had put that Question to me, he gave me no time to answer, nor was it in my power; so much had his terrible Aspect put me beside my self. He grasp'd

grasp'd me by the middle, dragg'd me out of the Chamber, and mounting into the Air, carried me up as high as the Skies with such Swiftneſs, that I perceived I was got ſo high without being able to take notice of the Way he carried me in ſo few moments. He deſcended again in like manner to the Earth, which on a ſudden he cauſed to open with a Knock of his Foot, and ſo ſunk down at once, where I found my ſelf in the enchanted Palace, before the fair Princeſs of the Iſle of *Ebene*. But alas, what a Spectacle was there! I ſaw that which pierc'd me to the Heart; this poor Princeſs was quite naked, all in Blood, and laid upon the Ground more like one dead than alive, with her Cheeks all bath'd in Tears.

Perſidious Wretch, ſaid the *Genie* to her, pointing at me, *Is not this your Gallant?* She caſt her languiſhing Eyes upon me, and answered mournfully, *I do not know him, I never ſaw him till this moment.* What, ſaid the *Genie*, *He is the Cauſe of thy being in the Condition thou art juſtly in; and yet dar'ſt thou ſay thou doſt not know him?* If I do not know him, ſaid the Princeſs, *would you have me to make a Lye on purpoſe to ruin him?* Oh then, ſaid the *Genie*, pulling out a Scimeter, and preſenting it to the Princeſs, *If you never ſaw him before, take the Scimeter and cut off his Head.* Alas, replied the Princeſs, *How is it poſſible that I ſhould execute what you would force me to do? My Strength is ſo far ſpent, that I cannot lift up my Arm; and if I could, how ſhould I have the Heart to take away an innocent Man's Life, and one I do not know?* This Refuſal, ſaid the *Genie* to the Princeſs, ſufficiently informs me of the Crime. Upon which, turning

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to me: *And thou*, said he, *dost thou not know her?*

I should have been the most ungrateful Wretch, and the most perfidious of all Mankind, if I had not shown my self as faithful to the Princess as she was to me, who had been the Cause of her Misfortunes. Therefore I answer'd the *Genie*, How should I know her, that never saw her till now? If that be so, said he, take the Scimeter and cut off her Head: On this Condition I will set thee at liberty, for then I shall be convinc'd that thou didst never see her till this very moment, as thou say'st thy self. With all my heart, replied I, and took the Scimeter in my Hand.

But, Sir, said *Scheherazade*, 'tis Day, and I ought not to abuse your Majesty's Patience. These are wonderful Events, said the Sultan to himself. We shall know to-morrow if the Prince was so cruel as to give obedience to the *Genie's* Command.

The Forty-sixth Night.

WHEN the Night was near at an end, *Dinarzade* calls upon the Sultaness; Sister, if you be not asleep, I would pray you to continue the Story which you could not finish yesterday. I will, said *Scheherazade*; and without loss of Time you shall understand, that the second *Calendar* went on thus.

Do not think, Madam, that I drew near to the fair Princess of the Isle of *Ebene*, to be the Executioner of the *Genie's* Barbarity, I did it only to demonstrate by my Behaviour, as much as possible, that as she had shown her Resolution,

tion to sacrifice her Life for my sake, that I would not refuse to sacrifice mine for hers. The Princess, notwithstanding her Pain and Suffering, understood my meaning; which she signified by an obliging Look, and made me understand her Willingness to die for me; and that she was satisfied to see how willing I was also to die for her. Upon this I stepped back, and threw the Scimeter on the ground. I shall for ever, says I to the *Genie*, be hateful to all Mankind, should I be so base as to murder, I do not only say a Person whom I do not know, but also a Lady like this; who is ready to give up the Ghost: do with me what you please, since I am in your power, I cannot obey your barbarous Commands.

I see, said the *Genie*, that you both out-brave me, and insult my Jealousy; but both of you shall know by the Treatment I give you, what I am capable to do. At these words the Monster took up the Scimeter and cut off one of her Hands, which only left her so much Life as to give me a Token with the other, that she bid me for ever adieu. For the Blood she had lost before, and that which gush'd out then, did not permit her to live above one or two Moments after this barbarous Cruelty; the Sight of which threw me into a Fit. When I was come to myself again, I expostulated with the *Genie*, why he made me languish in expectation of Death: Strike, cried I, for I am ready to receive the mortal Blow, and expect it as the greatest Favour you can show me. But instead of agreeing to that, Look ye, says he, how *Genies* treat their Wives whom they suspect of Unfaithfulness; she has receiv'd thee here: And were I certain that she had put
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any farther Affront upon me, I would make thee to die this minute; but I will content my self to transform thee into a Dog, Afs, Lion, or Bird; take thy choice of any of these, I will leave it to thy self.

These words gave me some hopes to mollify him: O *Genie*, said I, *moderate your Passion, and since you will not take away my Life, give it me generously; I shall always remember your Clemency, if you pardon me, as one of the best Men in the World pardoned one of his Neighbours that bore him a mortal hatred.* The *Genie* ask'd me what had pass'd between those two Neighbours, and said, he would have patience till he heard the Story, which I told him thus; and I believe, Madam, you will not take it ill if I also relate it to you.

The Story of the envious Man, and of him that he envied.

IN a considerable Town, two Persons dwelt next door to one another; one of them conceiv'd such a violent Hatred against the other, that he who was hated resolv'd to remove his Dwelling farther off, being perswaded that their being Neighbours was the only cause from whence his Animosity did arise: For tho' he had done him several pieces of Service, he found, nevertheless, that his hatred was nothing diminish'd; therefore he sold his House with what Goods he had left, and retir'd to the capital City of that Kingdom, which was not far distant. He bought a little spot of Ground, which lay about half a League from the City; he had a House convenient enough, with a fine

Garden, and a pretty spacious Court, wherein there was a deep Well which was not in use.

The honest Man having made this Purchase, put on a Dervise's or Monk's Habit, to lead a retired Life, and caused several Cells to be made in the House, where in a short time he established a numerous Society of Dervises; he came soon to be publickly known by his Virtue, thro' which he acquired the Esteem of a great many People, as well of the Commonalty as of the Chief of the City. In short, he was extremely honoured and cherished by every one. People came from afar to recommend themselves to his Prayers; and all those who came to live with him, publish'd what Blessings they received thro' his Means.

The great Reputation of this honest Man having spread thro' the Town from whence he came, it touch'd the envious Man so much to the quick, that he left his House and Affairs, with a Resolution to go and ruin him: With this Intent he went to the new Convent of Dervises, of which his former Neighbour was the Head, who received him with all imaginable Tokens of Friendship. The envious Man told him that he was come on purpose to communicate a Business of importance to him, which he could not do but in private; And because that no body shall hear us, let us, says he, take a walk in your Court; and seeing Night begins to draw on, command your Dervises to retire to their Cells. The Head of the Dervises did as he required.

When the envious Man saw that he was alone with this good Man, he began to tell him his Errand, walking side by side in the Court, 'till he saw his Opportunity; and getting the
good

good Man near the Brink of the Well, he gave him a Thrust, and push'd him into it, without any body's being witness to so wicked an Action. Having done thus, he marched off immediately, got out at the Gate of the Convent, without being known of any one, and came home to his own House very well satisfied with his Journey, being fully persuaded that the Object of his Hatred was no more in this World, but found himself highly mistaken.

Scheherazade could go no farther, because Day began to appear. The Sultan conceived great Indignation against the envious Man, and says to himself, I heartily wish that no hurt may come to this honest Man. I hope to hear to-morrow that Heaven did not forsake him on this occasion.

The Forty-seventh Night.

IF you be not asleep, Sister, said *Dinarzade* next Morning, I conjure you to tell us if the honest Dervise came safe and sound out of the Well. Yes, replied *Scheherazade*: And the second *Calender* pursued his Story thus. The old Well, says he, was inhabited by Fairies and *Genies*, which happened luckily for the Relief of the Head of the Convent; for they received and supported him, and carried him to the Bottom, so that he got no hurt. He perceived well enough that there was something extraordinary in his Fall, which must otherwise have cost him his Life; whereas he neither saw nor felt any thing. But he soon heard a Voice, which said, *Do you know what honest Man this is, to whom we have done this*

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Piece of Service? Another Voice answer'd, *No.* To which the first replied, *Then I will tell you.* This Man out of Charity, the greatest that ever was known, left the Town he lived in, and has establish'd himself in this Place, in hopes to cure one of his Neighbours of the Envy he had conceiv'd against him; he has acquired such a general Esteem, that the envious Man, not able to endure it, came hither on purpose to ruin him, which he had perform'd had it not been for the Assistance which we have given this honest Man, whose Reputation is so great, that the Sultan, who keeps his Residence in the neighbouring City, was to pay him a Visit to-morrow, to recommend the Princess his Daughter to his Prayers.

Another Voice ask'd, *What need had the Princess of the Dervise's Prayers?* To which the first answer'd, *You do not know, it seems, that she is possess'd by Genie Maimoun, the Son of Dimdim, who is fallen in love with her. But I know well how this good Head of the Dervises may cure her; the Thing is very easy, and I will tell it you. He has a black Cat in his Convent with a white Spot at the end of her Tail, about the bigness of a small Piece of Silver Money; let him only pull seven Hairs out of this white Spot, burn them, and smoke the Princess's Head with the Fume, she will not only presently be cured, but be so safely deliver'd from Maimoun, the Son of Dimdim, that he will never dare to come near her a second time.*

The Head of the Dervises remembred every Word of his Discourse between the Fairies and the Genies, who were very silent all the Night after. The next Morning by break of Day, that

that he could discern one thing from another, the Well being broke down in several places, he saw a Hole by which he crept out with ease.

The other Dervises, who had been seeking for him, were rejoiced to see him; he gave them a brief Account of the Wickedness of that Man to whom he had given so kind a reception the Day before, and retired into his Cell. It was not long till the black Cat, of whom the Fairies and the *Genies* had made mention in their Discourses the Night before, came to fawn upon her Master, as she was accustomed to do; he took her up, and pull'd out seven Hairs off the white spot that was upon her Tail, and laid them aside for his use when occasion should serve.

The Sun was not high, when the Sultan, who would leave no means untried that he thought could restore the Princess to her perfect Health, arrived at the Gate of the Convent. He commanded his Guards to halt, whilst he with his principal Officers went in. The Dervises received him with profound Respect.

The Sultan called their Head aside, and says, Good Sheich, *it may be you know already the Cause of my coming hither. Yes, Sir,* replies he very gravely, *if I do not mistake it, 'tis the Disease of the Princess which procures me this Honour that I have not deserved. That's the very thing,* replied the Sultan. *You will give me new Life, if your Prayers, as I hope they will, can procure my Daughter's Health. Sir,* said the good Man, *if your Majesty will be pleased to let her come hither, I am in hopes, that thro' God's Assistance and Favour, she shall return in perfect Health.*

The Prince, transported with Joy, sent immediately to fetch his Daughter, who very soon appeared with a numerous Train of Ladies and Eunuchs, but masked, so that her Face was not seen. The chief of the Dervises caus'd a Pall to be held over her Head, and he had no sooner thrown the seven Tufts of Hair upon the burning Coals, but the Genie *Maimoun*, the Son of *Dindim*, gave a great Cry, without any thing being seen, and left the Princess at liberty; upon which, she took off the Veil from her Face, and rose up to see where she was, saying, Where am I, and who brought me hither? At which words the Sultan overcome with excess of Joy, embraced his Daughter, and kissed her Eyes; he also kissed the chief of the Dervises Hands, and said to his Officers, *Tell me your Opinion, What Reward does he deserve that has thus cured my Daughter?* They all cried, *He deserves her in Marriage. That is what I had in my Thoughts,* said the Sultan; *and I make him my Son-in-Law from this moment.* Some time after the prime Visier died, and the Sultan conferr'd the place upon the Dervise. The Sultan himself also died without Heirs Male; upon which, the religious Orders and the Militia gathered together, and the honest Man was declared and acknowledged Sultan by general consent.

Day-light appearing, *Scheherazade* was obliged to break off her Story. *Schahriar* look'd upon the Dervise to be worthy of the Crown he had got, but was desirous to know if the envious Man did not die for spite, and got up with an Intention to hear it next Night.

The Forty-eighth Night.

D*Inarzade*, when it was time, address'd her Speech to the Sultaneſs thus: My dear Siſter, ſaid ſhe, if you be not aſleep, I would pray you to conclude the Story of the hated and envious Man. With all my heart, answers *Scheberazade*. The ſecond *Calender* continued his Story thus: The honeſt Dervife, ſaid he, being mounted on the Throne of his Father-in-law, as he was one day in the miſt of his Courtiers upon a March, he eſpied the envious Man among the Croud of People that ſtood as he paſt along, and calling one of the Viſiers that attended him, whiſper'd in his Ear thus; *Go bring me that Man you ſee there; but have a care you do not frighten him.* The Viſier obey'd, and when the envious Man was brought into his Preſence, the Sultan ſaid, *Friend, I am extreme glad to ſee you.* Upon which he called to an Officer, *Go immediately, ſays he, and cauſe to be paid this Man out of my Treafury 100 Pieces of Gold, let him have alſo 20 Load of the richeſt Merchandize in my Store-houſes, and a ſufficient Guard to conduct him to his Houſe.* After he had given this Charge to the Officer, he bid the envious Man farewel, and proceeded on his March.

When I had finiſhed the Recital of this Story to the *Genie*, the Murderer of the Princeſs of the Iſle of *Ebene*, I made the Application to himſelf thus; *O Genie!* you ſee here, that this bountiful Sultan did not content himſelf to have forgot the Deſign of the envious Man to take away his Life, but treated him kindly, and ſent him

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back with all the Favours which I just now related. In short, I made use of all my Eloquence, praying him to imitate such a good example, and to grant me pardon: But it was impossible for me to move his compassion.

All that I can do for thee, said he, is, that I will not take thy Life; don't flatter thy self that I will send thee safe and sound back, I must let thee feel what I am able to do by my Inchantments; with that he laid violent Hands on me, and carried me cross the Vault of the subterranean Palace, which opened to give him passage: he flew up with me so high, that the Earth seemed to be only a little white Cloud; from thence he came down again like Lightning, and alighted upon the Ridge of a Mountain.

There he took up an handful of Earth, and pronounced, or rather mutter'd, some words which I did not understand, and threw it upon me, *Leave the Shape of a Man*, says he to me, *and take on thee that of an Ape*. He vanish'd immediately, and left me alone, transform'd into an *Ape*, overwhelm'd with Sorrow in a strange Country, not knowing if I was near unto, or far from my Father's Dominions.

I went down from the height of the Mountain, and came into a plain Country, which took me a Month's time to travel thro', and then I came to a Coast of the Sea. It happened to be then a great Calm, and I espied a Vessel about half a League from the Shore: I would not lose this good Opportunity, but broke off a large Branch from a Tree, which I carried with me to the Sea-side, and set my self astride upon it, with a Stick in each Hand to serve me for Oars.

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I launched out in this Posture, and advanced near the Ship: When I was nigh enough to be known, the Seamen and Passengers that were upon the Deck, thought it an extraordinary Spectacle, and all of 'em look'd upon me with great Astonishment. In the mean time I got aboard, and laying hold of a Rope, I jump'd upon the Deck, and having lost my Speech, I found my self in very great Perplexity; and indeed the Risk I run then, was nothing less than when I was at the mercy of the *Genie*.

The Merchants, being both superstitious and scrupulous, believ'd I should occasion some Mischief to their Voyage if they receiv'd me; Therefore, says one, I will knock him down with an Hand-spike; says another, I will shoot an Arrow thro' his Guts; says a third, Let us throw him into the Sea. Some of them would not have fail'd to have executed their Design, if I had not got to that side where the Captain was; when I threw my self at his Feet, and took him by the Coat in a begging Posture. This Action, together with the Tears which he saw gush from my Eyes, moved his Compassion; so that he took me into his Protection, threatned to be revenged on him that should do me the least hurt; and he himself made very much of me. And on my part, tho' I had no Power to speak, I did, by my Gestures, shew all possible Signs of Gratitude.

The Wind that succeeded the Calm was gentle and favourable, and did not alter for fifty Days, but brought us safe to the Port of a fine Town well peopled, and of great Trade, where we came to an Anchor: It was so much the more considerable, that it was the Capital City of a Powerful State.

Our Vessel was speedily furrounded with an infinite Number of Boats full of People, that either came to congratulate their Friends upon their safe Arrival, or to enquire for those they had left behind them in the Country from whence they came, or, out of Curiosity to see a Ship that came from a far Country.

Amongst the rest, some Officers came on board, desiring to speak with our Merchants in the Name of the Sultan. The Merchants appearing, one of the Officers told them, the Sultan, our Master, hath commanded us to acquaint you that he is glad of your safe Arrival, and prays you to take the Trouble, every one of you, to write some Lines upon this Roll of Paper? And that his Design by this may be understood, you must know that we had a Prime Visier, who, besides a great Capacity to manage Affairs, understood writing to the highest Perfection. This Minister is lately dead, at which the Sultan is very much troubled, and since he can never behold his Writing without Admiration, he has made a solemn Vow, not to give the Place to any Man but to him that can write as well as he did. Abundance of People have presented their Writings; but, to this day, no body in all this Empire has been judg'd worthy to supply the Visier's Place.

Those Merchants that believed they could write well enough to pretend to this high Dignity, wrote one after another what they thought fit. After they had done, I advanc'd, and took the Roll out of the Gentleman's Hand: But all the People, especially the Merchants, cried out, He will tear it, or throw it into the Sea, till they saw how properly I held the Roll, and made a Sign that I would write in my turn.

Then

Then they were of another Opinion, and their Fears turn'd into Admiration: However, since they had never seen an *Ape* that could write, nor could be persuaded that I was more ingenious than other *Apes*, they offer'd to snatch the Roll out of my Hand; but the Captain took my part once more. Let him alone, said he, suffer him to write. If he only scribbles the Paper, I promise you that I will punish him upon the spot. If on the contrary he writes well, as I hope he will, because I never saw an *Ape* so handy and ingenious, and so apprehensive of every thing, I do declare that I will own him as my Son; I had one that had not by far the Wit that he has. Perceiving that no Man did any more oppose my Design, I took the Pen, and wrote before I had done, six sorts of Hands used among the *Arabians*, and each Specimen contained an extemporary Distich or Quatrain in praise of the Sultan. My Writing did not only out-do that of the Merchants, but, I dare say, they had not before seen any such fair Writing in that Country. When I had done, the Officers took the Roll, and carried it to the Sultan.

Thus far was *Scheherazade* come with her Story when Day-light appear'd; Sir, said she to *Schabriar*, if I had time to continue, I would give your Majesty an Account of Things far more surprizing than what I have already told. The Sultan, who had resolved to hear the End of the Story, got up without saying one Word.

The Forty-ninth Night.

THE next Morning *Dinarzade*, being awake before day, called the Sultaneſs, and ſaid, Siſter, if you be not aſleep, pray let us hear the reſt of the Adventures, that happen'd to the *Ape*. I believe my Lord the Sultan is no leſs curious to know it than my ſelf. You ſhall both be ſatiſfied, answer'd *Scheherazade*; and that you may ſoon be eas'd of your Longing, the Second *Calender* continued his Story thus.

The Sultan took little notice of any of the other Writings, but conſider'd mine, which was ſo much to his liking, that he ſays to the Officers, Take the fineſt Horſe in my Stable, with the richeſt Harneſs, and a Robe of the moſt ſumptuous Brocard, to put upon that Perſon who wrote thoſe ſix Hands, and bring him hither to me. At his Command the Officers could not forbear laughing; the Sultan grew angry at their Boldneſs, and were ready to puniſh them till they told him, Sir, we humbly beg your Maſteſty's Pardon, theſe Hands are not writ by a Man, but by an *Ape*. What do you ſay, ſays the Sultan? thoſe Admirable Characters, are they not writ by the Hand of a Man? No, Sir, replied the Officers, we do aſſure your Maſteſty that it was an *Ape*, who wrote them in our preſence. The Sultan was too much ſurprized at this Account not to deſire a ſight of me, and therefore ſays, Do what I command you, and bring me ſpeedily that wonderful *Ape*.

The Officers returned to the Veſſel, and ſhew'd the Captain their Order, who answer'd,
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The Sultan's Commands must be obey'd. Whereupon they cloath'd me with that rich Brocard-Robe, and carried me a-shore, where they set me on horseback, whilst the Sultan waited for me at his Palace with a great Number of Courtiers, whom he gather'd together to do me the more Honour.

The Cavalcade being begun, the Harbour, the Streets, the publick Places, Windows, Terraces, Palaces and Houses, were all fill'd with an infinite Number of People of all sorts, who were curious to come from all parts of the City to see me: For the Rumour was spread in a Moment, that the Sultan had chosen an *Ape* to be his Grand-Visier; and after having serv'd for a Spectacle to the People, who could not forbear to express their Surprize, by redoubling their Shouts and Cries, I arrived at the Palace of the Sultan.

I found the Prince sat on his Throne in the midst of the Grandees; I made my Bow three times very low, and at last I kneel'd and kiss'd the Ground before him, and afterwards sat down in my Seat in the Posture of an *Ape*. The whole Assembly admired me, and could not comprehend how it was possible that an *Ape* should understand so well to give the Sultan his due Respect; and he himself was more astonish'd than any Man. In short, the Ceremony of the Audience would have been compleat, could I have added a Speech to my Behaviour; but Apes do never speak, and the Advantage I had of having been a Man, did not allow me that Privilege.

The Sultan dismiss'd his Courtiers, and none remain'd by him but the Chief of his Eunuchs, a little young Slave and my self. He went from
his

his Chamber of Audience into his own Apartment, where he ordered Dinner to be brought. As he sat at Table he gave me a Sign to come near and eat with him : To shew my Obedience, I kissed the Ground, stood up, sat me down at Table, and eat with Discretion and moderately.

Before the Table was uncovered, I espied an Inkhorn, which I made a sign should be brought me ; having got it, I wrote upon a large Peach some Verses after my way, which testified my Acknowledgment to the Sultan ; who having read them after my presenting him the Peach, it increased his Astonishment. When the Table was uncover'd, they brought him a particular Liquor, of which he caus'd them to give me a Glass : I drank, and wrote some new Verses upon it, which explained the State I was in, after a great many Sufferings. The Sultan read them likewise, and said, A Man that was capable of doing so much, ought to be exalted above the greatest of Men.

The Sultan caused them to bring in a Chess-board, and asked me by a Sign, if I understood that Game, and would play with him ? I kissed the Ground, and laying my Hand upon my Head, signified that I was ready to receive that Honour. He won the first Game, but I won the second and third ; and perceiving he was somewhat displeased at it, I made a Quatrain to pacify him ; in which I told him, That two potent Armies had been fighting very eagerly all day, but that they made up a Peace towards the Evening, and passed the remaining part of the Night very peaceably together upon the Field of Battle.

So many things appearing to the Sultan, far beyond whatever any one had either seen or known of the Behaviour and Knowledge of *Apes*, he would not be the only Witness of these Prodigies himself; but having a Daughter, called the Lady of Beauty, to whom the Head of the Eunuchs then present was Governour, Go, said the Sultan to him, and bid your Lady come hither: I am willing she should have a Share in my Pleasure.

The Eunuch went, and immediately brought the Princess, who had her Face uncover'd; but she was no sooner got into the Room, when she put on her Veil, and said to the Sultan, Sir, your Majesty must needs have forgot yourself; I am very much surprized that your Majesty has sent for me to appear among Men. How, Daughter! said the Sultan, you do not know what you say: Here is no body but the little Slave, the Eunuch your Governour, and my self, who has the liberty to see your Face; and yet you lower your Veil, and would make me a Criminal in having sent for you hither. Sir, said the Princess, your Majesty shall soon understand that I am not in the wrong. That *Ape* you see before you, tho' he has the Shape of an *Ape*, is a young Prince, Son of a great King; he has been metamorphos'd into an *Ape* by Incantment. A Genie, the Son of the Daughter of *Eblis*, has maliciously done him this Wrong, after having cruelly taken away the Life of the Princess of the Isle of *Ebene*, Daughter to the King *Epitimaros*.

The Sultan astonish'd at this Discourse, turned towards me, and spoke no more by Signs, but in plain Words, ask'd me, If it was true what his Daughter said? Seeing I could not

speak, I put my Hand to my Head to signify that what the Princess spoke was true. Upon this the Sultan said again to his Daughter, How do you know that this Prince has been transform'd by Inchantments into an *Ape*? Sir, replied the Lady of Beauty, your Majesty may remember that when I was past my Infancy, I had an old Lady waited upon me, she was a most expert Magician, and taught me Seventy Rules of Magick, by virtue of which I can transport your Capital City into the midst of the Sea in the Twinkling of an Eye, or beyond Mount *Caucasus*. By this Science I know all enchanted Persons at first sight: I know who they are, and by whom they have been enchanted; therefore do not admire if I should forthwith relieve this Prince in despite of the Inchantments, from that which hinders him to appear in your sight what he naturally is. Daughter, said the Sultan, I did not believe you to have understood so much. Sir, replied the Princess, these Things are curious and worth knowing; but I think I ought not to brag of them. Since it is so, said the Sultan, you can dispel the Prince's Inchantment. Yes, Sir, said the Princess, I can restore him to his first Shape again. Do it then, said the Sultan, you cannot do me a greater Pleasure; for I will have him to be my Visier, and he shall marry you. Sir, said the Princess, I am ready to obey you in all that you shall be pleas'd to command me.

Scheherazade, as she spoke, spied day, and broke off her Story of the second *Calender*: And *Schahriar* judging the Sequel would be as diverting as the former Part of it, resolved to hear it next Day.

The Fiftieth Night.

*D**Inarzade* call'd upon the Sultaneſs at the uſual Hour, ſaying, Siſter, if you be not aſleep, pray do us the Favour to tell us how the Lady of Beauty reſtor'd the ſecond *Calender* to his former Shape. You ſhall hear it, ſaid *Scheherazade*: The *Calender* reſum'd his Diſcourſe, thus :

The Princeſs, the Lady of Beauty, went into her Apartment, from whence ſhe brought a Knife, which had ſome *Hebrew* words engraven on the Blade: She made us all, *viz.* the Sultan, the Maſter of the Eunuchs, the little Slave and my ſelf, to go down into a private Court adjoining to the Palace, and there left us under a Gallery that went round it. She placed her ſelf in the middle of the Court, where ſhe made a great Circle, and within it ſhe wrote ſeveral words in *Arabian* Characters, ſome of them antient, and others of thoſe which they call the Character of *Cleopatra*.

When ſhe had finiſhed and prepared the Circle as ſhe thought fit, ſhe placed her ſelf in the Center of it, where ſhe began Adjurations, and repeated Verſes out of the *Alcoran*. The Air grew inſenſibly dark, as if it had been Night, and the whole World about to be diſſolved: We found our ſelves ſtruck with a panick Fear, and this Fear encreaſed the more when we ſaw the *Genie*, the Son of the Daughter of *Eblis*, appear all of a ſudden in the ſhape of a Lion of a frightful Size.

As ſoon as the Princeſs perceived this Monſter, You Dog, ſaid ſhe, inſtead of creeping before

before me, dare you present your self in this Shape, thinking to frighten me? And thou, reply'd the Lion, art not thou afraid to break the Treaty which was solemnly made and confirm'd between us by Oath, not to wrong or do one another any hurt? Oh thou cursed Creature! reply'd the Princess, I can justly reproach thee with doing so. The Lion answer'd fiercely, Thou shalt quickly have thy Reward for the Trouble thou hast given me to return: With that he open'd his terrible Throat, and run at her to devour her; but she, being on her Guard, leap'd backward, got time to pull out one of her Hairs, and by pronouncing three or four Words, chang'd her self into a sharp Sword, wherewith she cut the Lion thro' the middle in two pieces.

The two Parts of the Lion vanish'd, and the Head only was left, which changed it self into a large Scorpion. Immediately the Princess turn'd her self into a Serpent, and fought the Scorpion; who, finding himself worsted, took the Shape of an Eagle, and flew away: But the Serpent at the same time took also the Shape of an Eagle that was black and much stronger, and pursued him; so that we lost the sight of them both.

Some time after they had disappeared, the Ground opened before us, and out of it came forth a Cat, black and white, with her Hair standing upright, and keeping a fearful miauling; a black Wolf followed her close, and gave her no time to rest. The Cat being thus hard beset, changed her self into a Worm, and being nigh to a Pomegranate, that had accidentally fallen from a Tree that grew on the side of a Canal, which was deep, but not broad; the Worm pierced the Pomegranate in an instant, and hid

it self, but the Pomegranate swell'd immediately and became as big as a Gourd, which mounting up to the top of the Gallery, rowl'd there for some space backward and forward, fell down again into the Court, and broke into several Pieces.

The Wolf, who had in the mean while transformed it self into a Cock, fell a picking up the Seeds of the Pomegranate one after another; but finding no more, he came towards us with his Wings spread, making a great noise, as if he would ask us whether there was any more Seed. There was one lying on the Brink of the Canal, which the Cock perceiving as he went back, run speedily thither; but just as he was going to pick it up, the Seed rowl'd into the River and turn'd into a little Fish.

But I see Day, Sir, said *Scheherazade*, which had it not come so suddenly, I am persuaded that which I should have said farther would have given your Majesty a great deal of Satisfaction. Upon this she stopt, and the Sultan arose: But his Thoughts being altogether taken up with unheard-of Adventures, he was extremely impatient till he heard the rest of the Story.

The Fifty-first Night.

Dinarzade made no scruple to disturb the Sultaness next Morning, and call'd to her, Sister, if you be not asleep, pray begin where you left off that wonderful Story last Night; I am very desirous to know what follow'd after all those Metamorphoses. *Scheherazade* call'd to mind where she made a stop, and addressing her

her Discourse to the Sultan, Sir, says she, the second *Calender* continued his Story after this manner.

The Cock jump'd into the River and was turn'd into a Pike that pursued the small Fish; they continued both under water above two Hours, and we knew not what was become of them, but all of a sudden we heard terrible Cries which made us to quake, and a little while after we saw the *Genie* and Princess all in Flames: They threw Flashes of Fire out of their Mouths at one another, 'till they came to it hand to hand; then the two Fires increased, with a thick burning Smoke, which mounted so high that we had reason to fear it would set the Palace on fire. But we very soon had a more pressing occasion of Fear, for the *Genie* having got loose from the Princess, came to the Gallery where we stood, and blew Flames of Fire upon us: We had all perished if the Princess, running to our Assistance, had not forc'd him, by her Efforts, to retire and defend himself against her; yet notwithstanding all her Diligence, she could not hinder the Sultan's Beard from being burnt and his Face spoil'd, the chief of the Eunuchs from being stifled and burnt on the spot, nor a spark to enter my right Eye and make it blind. The Sultan and I expected nothing but death, when we heard a cry, *Victory, Victory!* and all of a sudden the Princess appear'd in her natural Shape, but the *Genie* was reduc'd to an heap of Ashes.

The Princess came near to us, and that she might not lose time, call'd for a Cup-full of Water, which the young Slave that had got no damage, brought her: She took it, and after pronouncing some words over it, threw it
upon

upon me, saying, *If thou art become an Ape by Incantment, change thy Shape and take that of a Man which thou hadst before.* These Words were hardly utter'd till I became a Man, as I was before, one Eye only excepted.

I was perparing my self to give Thanks to the Princess, but she prevented me, by addressing her self to her Father thus; Sir, I have got the Victory over the *Genie*, as your Majesty may see; but it's a Victory that costs me dear; I have but a few Moments to live, and you will not have the Satisfaction to make the Match you intended, the Fire has pierced me during the terrible Combat, and I find it consumes me by degrees: This would not have happen'd, had I perceiv'd the last of the Pomegranate Seed, and swallow'd it as I did the other, when I was chang'd into a Cock: The *Genie* had fled thither as to his last Intrenchment, and upon that the Success of the Combat depended, which would have been successful and without danger to me. This slip oblig'd me to have recourse to Fire, and to fight with those mighty Arms as I did between Heaven and Earth, in your Presence; for in spite of all his redoubtable Art and Experience, I made the *Genie* to know that I understood more than he: I have conquer'd and reduc'd him to Ashes, but I cannot escape Death, which is approaching.

Here *Scheherazade* broke off the Story of the second *Calender*, and said to the Sultan, Sir, Day-light appears, which forbids me to say any more; but if your Majesty thinks fit to let me live till to-morrow, you shall hear the End of this Story. *Schahriar* consented and got up,

up, according to Custom, to take care of the Affairs of his Empire.

The Fifty-second Night.

D*Inarzade* awaking some time before Day, called upon the Sultaneſs, and ſaid, My dear Siſter, if you be not aſleep, I would pray you to finiſh the Story of the ſecond *Calender*. *Scheherazade* reſum'd her Diſcourſe, and went on as follows:

The *Calender* always directing his Speech to *Zobeide*, told her, Madam, the Sultan ſuffered the Princeſs, the Lady of Beauty, to go on with the recital of her Combat: And when ſhe had done, he ſpoke to her in a Tone that ſufficiently teſtified his Grief. My Daughter, ſaid he, you ſee in what Condition your Father is; alas! I wonder that I am yet alive! Your Governor, the Eunuch, is dead, and the Prince whom you have deliver'd from his Inchantment has loſt one of his Eyes. He could ſpeak no more, for his Tears, Sighs, and Sobs made him ſpeechleſs; his Daughter and I were exceeding ſenſible of his Sorrow, and wept with him.

In the mean time, while we were ſtriving to out-do one another in Grief, the Princeſs cry'd, *I burn, Oh I burn*. She found that the Fire which conſumed her, had at laſt ſeized upon her whole Body, which made her ſtill cry, *I burn*, until Death had made an end of her intolerable Pains. The effect of that Fire was ſo extraordinary, that in a few moments ſhe was wholly reduc'd to Aſhes, as was the *Genie*.

I can't tell you, Madam, how much I was grieved at so dismal a Spectacle: I had rather all my Life have continued an Ape or a Dog, than to have seen my Benefactress thus miserably perish. The Sultan being afflicted beyond all that can be imagin'd, cried out piteously, and beat himself on his Head and Stomach until such time as, being quite overcome with Grief, he fainted away, which made me fear his Life. In the mean time, the Eunuchs and Officers came running at the Sultan's Cries, and with very much ado brought him to himself again. There was no need of that Prince and me to give them a long Narrative of this Adventure, in order to convince them of their great Grief. The two Heaps of Ashes, into which the Princess and the *Genie* had been reduc'd, was Demonstration enough. The Sultan was hardly able to stand upright, but was forced to be supported by them till he could get to his Apartment.

When the Noise of the tragical Event had spread it self thro' the Palace and the City, all the People bewail'd the Misfortune of the Princess, the Lady of Beauty, and were sensible of the Sultan's Affliction. Every one was in deep Mourning for seven days, and a great many Ceremonies were perform'd: The Ashes of the *Genie* were thrown into the air, but those of the Princess were gather'd into a precious Urn to be kept, and the Urn was set in a stately Tomb, which was built for that purpose, on the same place where the Ashes had laid.

The Grief, which the Sultan conceived for the loss of his Daughter, threw him into a Fit of Sickness, which confined him to his Chamber for a whole Month. He had not fully recover'd Strength when he sent for me; Prince, said he,
Hearken

Hearken to the Orders which I now give you, it will cost you your Life if you do not put them in execution. I assur'd him of exact Obedience; upon which, he went on thus: I have constantly lived in perfect Felicity, and was never crossed by any Accident; but by your Arrival all my Happiness I possessed is vanished, my Daughter is dead, her Governour is no more, and it is thro' a Miracle that I am yet alive. You are the Cause of all those Misfortunes, for which it is impossible that I should be comforted; therefore depart from hence in peace, but without farther delay, for I my self must perish if you stay any longer; I am persuaded, that your Presence brings mischief along with it: This is all I have to say to you. Depart, and take care of ever appearing again in my Dominions; there is no Consideration whatsoever, that shall hinder me from making you repent of it. I was going to speak, but he stopt my Mouth by words full of Anger; and so I was oblig'd to remove from his Palace, rejected, banish'd, thrown off by all the World, and not knowing what would become of me. Before I left the City I went into a Bagnio, where I caus'd my Beard and Eye-brows to be shav'd, and put on a Calender's Habit. I began my Journey, not so much deploring my own Miseries, as the death of the two fair Princesses, of which I have been the occasion. I pass'd thro' many Countries without making my self known; at last I resolv'd to come to Bagdad, in hopes to get my self introduc'd to the Commander of the Faithful, to move his Compassion, by giving him an account of my strange Adventures. I came hither this Evening, and the first Man I met was this Calender, our Brother, that spoke before me. You

know the remaining part, Madam, and the cause of my having the Honour to be here.

When the second *Calender* made an end of his Story, *Zobeide*, to whom he had address'd his Speech, told him, 'Tis very well, you may go which way you please, I give you leave; but instead of departing, he also petition'd the Lady to show him the same Favour she had vouchsafed the first *Calender*, and went and sat down by him: But, Sir, said *Scheherazade*, as she spoke these words, 'tis Day, and I must go no farther. I dare however assure you, that how agreeable soever the Story of the second *Calender* may seem to you, that of the third will be no less worthy of your hearing, if your Majesty will be pleas'd to have the patience. The Sultan being desirous to know whether it would appear so wonderful as the last, got out of Bed with a Resolution to prolong *Scheherazade's* Life farther, tho' the delay he had granted was determined several Days before.

The Fifty-third Night.

ABOUT the latter end of the following Night *Dinarzade* address'd her Speech to the Sultaneß thus: Dear Sister, I pray, until Day appear, which will be very soon, be pleas'd to relate some of the fine Stories you have read: I would willingly, said *Schahriar*, hear the Story of the third *Calender*. Sir, replied *Scheherazade*, you shall be obey'd. The third *Calender*, perceiving it was his turn to speak, address'd his Speech as the rest had done to *Zobeide*, and began in this manner.

*The Story of the Third Calender,
a King's Son.**Most honourable Lady,*

THAT which I am going to tell you, very much differs from what you have heard already. The two Princes that spoke before me have each lost an Eye by the pure Effects of their Destiny, but mine I lost thro' my own fault, and by hastning to seek my own Misfortune, as you shall hear by the sequel of my Story.

My name is *Agib*, and I am the Son of a King who was called *Cassib*: After his Death I took possession of his Dominions, and resided in the same City where he liv'd before. This City is situated on the Sea-Coast, has one of the finest and safest Harbours in the World, an Arsenal large enough for fitting out 50 Men of War to Sea, that are always ready on occasion, and also to fit out 50 Merchant-Ships, with as many light Frigats, and Pleasure-boats for Recreation. My Kingdom is composed of several fine Provinces upon *Terra firma*, besides a number of spacious Islands, every one of which lie almost in sight of my capital City.

The first thing I did, was to visit the Provinces: I afterwards caus'd to fit out and man my whole Fleet, and went to my Islands to gain the Hearts of my Subjects by my Presence, and to confirm them in their Loyalty; and some time after I return'd, I went thither again. These Voyages giving me some taste of Navigation, I took so much pleasure in it, that I resolv'd to make some Discoveries

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ries beyond my Islands; to which end I caused only ten Ships to be fitted out, embark'd on board them, and set sail.

Our Voyage was very successful for 40 Days together, but on the 41st Night the Wind became contrary, and withal so boisterous, that we were like to have been lost in the Storm. About break of Day the Wind grew calm, and the Clouds were dispers'd, and the Sun having brought back fair Weather, we came close to an Island, where we remain'd two Days to take in fresh Provisions; this being done, we put off again to Sea. After ten Days sail we were in hopes of seeing Land, for the Tempests we had gone thro' had so much abated my Curiosity, that I gave Orders to steer back to my own Coasts; but I perceived at the same time that my Pilot knew not where we were. Upon the 10th Day, a Seaman being sent to look out for Land from the Main-mast-head, he gave notice, that on Starboard and Larboard he could see nothing but the Sky and the Sea, which bounded the Horizon; but just before us upon the Stem, he saw a great Blackness.

The Pilot chang'd colour at this Relation, and throwing his Turbant on the Deck with one Hand, and beating his Breast with t'other, cried, *Oh, Sir, we are all lost, not one of us will escape; and with all my Skill it is not in my power to prevent it!* Having spoke thus, he fell a crying like a Man who foresaw unavoidable Ruin; his Despair put the whole Ship's Crew into a Terror. I ask'd him what reason he had thus to despair? He told me, *the Tempest, which we had out-liv'd had brought us so far out of our Course, that to-morrow about noon we shall come near to that black*

Place, which is nothing else but the black Mountain, that is a Mine of Adamant, which at this very Minute draws ail your Fleet towards it, by virtue of the Iron and Nails that are in your Ships; and when we come to-morrow at a certain distance, the strength of the Adamant will have such a Force, that all the Nails will be drawn out of the Sides and Bottoms of the Ships, and fasten'd to the Mountain, so that your Vessel will fall to pieces, and sink to the bottom. And as the Adamant has a virtue to draw all Iron to it, whereby its Attraction becomes stronger, this Mountain on the side of the Sea is all cover'd over with Nails, drawn out of an infinite number of Vessels that have perish'd by it; and this preserves and augments its virtue at the same time.

This Mountain, continues the Pilot, is very rugged; on the top of it there's a Dome of fine Brass, supported by Pillars of the same, and upon the top of that Dome there stands a Horse of the same Metal, with a Rider on his Back, who has a Plate of Lead fix'd to his Breast, upon which some Talismanical Characters are engraven: Sir, the Tradition is, That this Statue is the chief Cause that so many Ships and Men have been lost and sunk in this place, and that it will ever continue to be dismal to all those that have the Misfortune to come near it, until such time that it shall be thrown down.

The Pilot, having ended his Discourse, began to weep afresh, and this made all the rest of the Ship's Company do the like. I my self had no other Thoughts, but that my Days were there to have an end: In the mean time every one began to provide for his own Safety, and

to that end took all imaginable Precautions; and, being uncertain of the Event, they all made one another their Heirs, by virtue of a Will, for the Benefit of those that should happen to be saved.

The next Morning we perceived the black Mountain very plain, and the Idea we had conceiv'd of it made it appear more frightful than it was. About Noon we were come so near, that we found what the Pilot had foretold to be true, for we saw all the Nails and Iron about the Ships fly towards the Mountain, where they fix'd, by the Violence of the Attraction, with a horrible Noise; the Ships split asunder, and sunk into the Sea, which was so deep about that Place that we could not sound it. All my People were drown'd, but God had Mercy on me, and permitted me to save my self by means of a Plank, which the Wind drove ashore just at the Foot of the Mountain: I did not receive the least Hurt, and my good Fortune brought me to a Landing-Place, where there were Steps that went up to the top of the Mountain.

Scheherazade would have gone on with her Story, but Day appearing, she was oblig'd to keep silence. The Sulran was convinc'd by this beginning, that the Sultaneſs had not deceived him, and therefore we are not to wonder that he did not order her to die that Day.

The Fifty-fourth Night.

FOR the sake of Heav'n, cry'd *Dinarzade* next Morning, if you be not asleep, Sister, go on with the Story of the third *Calender*.

My dear Sister, said *Scheherazade*, the Prince renewed his Discourse thus.

At the sight of these Steps, said he, for there was not a bit of Ground either on the Right or Left, whercon a Man could set his foot, I gave thanks to God, and recommended my self to his holy Protection, as I began to mount the Steps, which were so narrow, rugged and hard to get up, that had the Wind blown ever so little, it would have thrown me down into the Sea. But, at last, I got up to the top, without any Accident, I came into the Dome, and kneeling on the Ground, gave God thanks for his Mercies to me.

I pass'd the Night under the Dome, and in my Sleep an old grave Man appear'd to me, and said, *Hearken Agib, as soon as thou art awake, dig up the Ground under thy Feet; thou shalt find a Bow of Brass, and three Arrows of Lead, that are made under certain Constellations, to deliver Mankind from so many Calamities that threaten them. Shoot the three Arrows at the Statue, and the Rider shall fall into the Sea, but the Horse will fall down by thy side, which thou must bury in the same Place from whence you took the Bow and Arrows: This being done, the Sea will swell and rise up to the Foot of the Dome that stands upon the Top of the Mountain: When it is come up so high, thou shalt see a Boat with one Man and an Oar in each Hand: This Man is also of Metal, but different from that thou hast thrown down; step on board to him, without mentioning the Name of God, and let him conduct thee. He will, in ten days time, bring thee into another Sea, where thou shalt find an Opportunity to get home to thy Country safe and sound,*
provided,

provided, as I have told thee, thou dost not mention the name of God during the whole Voyage.

This was the Contents of the old Man's Discourse. When I awak'd I was very much comforted by this Vision, and did not fail to observe every thing that he had commanded me. I took the Bow and Arrows out of the Ground, shot 'em at the Horseman, and with the third Arrow I overthrew him, and he fell into the Sea, as the Horse fell by my side, which I buried in the Place whence I took the Bow and Arrows; and in the mean time the Sea swell'd and rose up by degrees: When it came as high as the Foot of the Dome that stood upon the Top of the Mountain, I saw afar off a Boat rowing towards me, and I return'd God thanks that every thing succeeded according to my Dream.

At last the Boat came ashore, and I saw the Man was made of Metal. According as I had dreamt, I stept aboard, and took great heed not to pronounce the Name of God, neither spoke I one Word at all; I sat down, and the Man of Metal began to row off from the Mountain: He row'd without ceasing till the ninth Day, that I saw some Islands, which put me in hopes that I should be out of all the Danger that I was afraid of. The Excess of my Joy made me forget what I was forbidden to do: *God's Name be blest*, said I, *The Lord be praised.*

I had no sooner spoke those Words, but the Boat sunk with the Man of Metal, and leaving me upon the Surface, I swam the remaining part of the Day towards that Land which appeared nearest to me. A very dark Night succeeded, and not knowing where-about I was, I swam at a venture; my Strength began at last to fail,

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and I despaired of being able to save my self; when the Wind began to blow hard, and a Wave as big as a Mountain threw me on a Flat, where it left me, and drew back. I made haste to get ashore, fearing another Wave might wash me back again: The first thing I did was to strip and wring the Water out of my Clothes, and then laid them down to dry on the Sand, which was still pretty warm by the heat of the Day.

Next Morning the Sun dried my Clothes betimes, I put them on, and went forward to see whereabouts I was; I had not walked very far, till I found I was got upon a little desert Island, tho' very pleasant, where there grew several sorts of Trees and wild Fruits; but I perceived it was very far from the Continent, which much diminished the Joy I conceived for having escaped the danger of the Seas. Notwithstanding, I recommended my self to God, and pray'd him to dispose of me according to his good Will and Pleasure: at the same time I saw a Vessel coming from the main Land, before the Wind, directly to the Island. I doubted not but they were coming to anchor there, and being uncertain what sort of People they might be, whether Friends or Foes, I thought it not safe for me to be seen; I got up into a very thick Tree, from whence I might safely view them. The Vessel came into a little Creek, where ten Slaves landed, carrying a Spade and other Instruments fit for digging up the Ground; they went towards the middle of the Island, where I saw them stop and dig the Ground a long while, after which I thought I saw them lift up a Trap-door. They return'd again to the Vessel and unladed several sorts of Provisions

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Provisions and Furniture, which they carried to that Place where they had broke Ground, and so went downward, which made me suppose it was a subterranean Being.

I saw them once more go to the ship, and return soon after with an old Man, who led a very handsome young Lad in his Hand of about fourteen or fifteen Years of age: they all went down at the Trap-Door. And being come up again, having let down the Trap-door and cover'd it over with Earth, they return'd to the Creek where the Ship lay, but I saw not the young Man in their Company: this made me believe that he staid behind in that Place under-ground, at which I could not but be extremely astonished.

The old Man and the Slaves went aboard again, and the Vessel having got under-sail steer'd its Course towards the main Land. When I perceiv'd they were at such distance that they could not see me, I came down from the Tree, and went directly to the Place where I had seen the Ground broke; I removed the Earth by degrees, till I found a Stone that was two or three Foot square. I lifted it up and saw it cover'd the Head of the Stairs, which was also of Stone; I went down and came into a large Room, where there was laid a Foot-Carpet, and a Couch cover'd with Tapistry, and Cushions of rich Stuff, upon which the young Man sat with a Fan in his Hand. I saw all this by the Light of two Tapers, together with the Fruits and Flower-Pots he had standing about him. The young Lad was startled at the sight of me. But to rid him of his Fear, I spoke to him as I came in, thus; Whoever you be, Sir, do not fear any thing, a King, and the Son of a King, as

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I am, is not capable of doing you any prejudice. On the contrary, it's probable, that your good Destiny has brought me hither, to deliver you out of this Tomb, where it seems, they have buried you alive, for Reasons unknown to me. But that which makes me wonder, and what I cannot conceive (for you must know that I have been Witness to all that hath passed since your coming into this Island) is, that you suffered your self to be buried in this Place without any Resistance.

Scheherazade broke off here, and the Sultan arose very impatient to know why this young Lad was thus abandoned in a desert Island, as to which he promised himself Satisfaction next Night.

The Fifty-fifth Night.

D*Inarzade* perceiving it was time to call upon the Sultaness, said, Sister, if you be not asleep pray re-assume the Story of the third *Calender*. *Scheherazade* gave her no occasion to repeat her request, and went on in this manner:

The young Man, continued the third *Calender*, recovered himself at these Words, and pray'd me, with a smiling Countenance, to sit down by him; which when I had done, he said, Prince, I am to acquaint you with a Matter so odd in it self, that it cannot but surprise you.

My Father is a Merchant-Jeweller, who has acquired, thro' his Ingenuity in his Calling, a great Estate; he hath a great many Slaves, and a'so Deputies, whom he employs to go as
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Super-Cargoes to Sea with his own Ships, on purpose to maintain the Correspondence he has at several Courts, which he furnishes with such precious Stones as they want.

He had been married a long while and without Issue, when he understood by a Dream that he should have a Son, tho' his Life would be but short, at which he was very much concern'd when he awak'd. Some Days after my Mother acquainted him that she was with-Child, and the Time which she supposed to be that of her Conception agreed exactly with the Day of his Dream. She was brought to-bed of me at the end of nine Months, which occasioned great Joy in the Family.

My Father, who had observed the very Moment of my Birth, consulted Astrologers about my Nativity, who told him, Your Son shall live very happily till the Age of Fifteen, when he will be in danger of losing his Life, and hardly be able to escape it. But if his good Destiny preserve him beyond that Time, he will live to grow very old. 'Twill be then (said they) when the Statue of Brass, that stands upon the Top of the Mountain of Adamant, shall be thrown down into the Sea by Prince Agib, Son of King Cassib; and, as the Stars prognosticate, your Son shall be killed fifty Days afterwards by that Prince.

As the Event of this part of the Prediction about the Statue, agrees exactly with my Father's Dream, it afflicted him so much that he was struck to the very heart with it. In the mean time he took all imaginable Care of my Education until this present Year, which is the Fifteenth of my Age; and he had notice given him yesterday, that the Statue of Brass had

been thrown into the Sea about ten Days ago, by that same Prince I told you of. This News has cost him so many Tears, and has alarm'd him so much, that he looks not like himself.

Upon these Predictions of the Astrologers, he has sought by all Means possible to falsify my Horoscope, and to preserve my Life. 'Tis not long since he took this Precaution, to build me this subterranean Habitation to hide me in, till the Expiration of the Fifty Days after the throwing down of the Statue; and therefore since it was that this had happened ten Days ago, he came hastily hither to hide me, and promised at the end of Forty Days to come again and fetch me out. As for my own part, I am in good hopes, and cannot believe that Prince Agib will come to seek for me in a Place under Ground, in the midst of a desert Island. This my Lord, is what I have to say to you.

Whilst the Jeweller's Son was telling me this Story, I laugh'd in my self at those Astrologers who had foretold that I should take away his Life; for I thought my self so far from being likely to verify what they said, that he had scarce done speaking, when I told him with great Joy, Dear Sir, put your Confidence in the Goodness of God, and fear nothing, you may consider it is a Debt you was to pay; but that you are acquitted of it from this very Hour: I am glad that after my Shipwreck I came so fortunately hither, to defend you against all those that would attempt your Death: I will not leave you till the forty Days are expired, of which the Foolish Astrologers have made you so apprehensive; and in the mean while I will do you all the Service that lies in my power: After which I shall have the Benefit of getting

ting to the main Land in your Vessel, with leave of your Father and your self; and when I am return'd into my Kingdom, I shall remember the obligations I owe you, and endeavour to demonstrate my Acknowledgments in a suitable manner.

This Discourse of mine encouraged the Jeweller's Son, and made him have Confidence in me. I took care not to tell him I was the very *Agib* whom he dreaded, lest I should put him into a Fright, and took as much care not to give him any cause to suspect it. We passed the Time in several Discourses till Night came on: I found the young Lad of a ready Wit, and eat with him of his Provisions, of which he had enough to have lasted beyond the Forty Days, tho' he had had more Guests than my self. After Supper we continued some time in discourse, at last we went to Bed.

The next Day when we got up, I held the Basin and Water to him, I also provided Dinner, and set it on the Table in due time: After we had done, I invented a Play to divert our selves, not only for that Day, but for those that followed. I prepared Supper after the same manner as I had prepared Dinner; and having sup'd we went to bed as formerly. We had Time enough to contract Friendship: I found he loved me; and for my part, I had so great a Respect for him, that I have often said to my self, *Those Astrologers who predicted to his Father, that his Son should die by my Hand, were Impostors; for it is not possible that I could commit so base an Action.* In short, Madam, we spent Thirty-nine Days in the pleasantest manner that could be, in a Place like that under Ground.

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The fortieth Day appear'd: And in the Morning when the young man awaked, he says to me with a Transport of Joy that he could not restrain, Prince, this is the fortieth Day, and I am not dead, Thanks to God and your good Company. My Father will not fail to be here anon, to give you a Testimony of his Gratitude for it, and shall furnish you with all that's necessary for your Return to your Kingdom: But in the mean time, said he, I beg you to get ready some Water very warm, to wash my whole Body in that portable Bagnio, that I may clean my self, and change my Clothes, to receive my Father more chearfully.

I set the Water on the Fire, and when it was hot, put it into the moveable Bagnio: The Youth went in, and I my self wash'd and rubb'd him. At last he came out, and laid himself down in his Bed that I had prepared, and covered him with his Bed-Clothes. After he had slept awhile he awak'd, and said, Dear Prince pray do me the Favour to fetch me a Melon and some Sugar, that I may eat some and refresh me.

Out of several Melons that remain'd, I took the best and laid it on a Plate; and because I could not find a Knife to cut it with, I asked the young Man, if he knew where there was one? There is one, said he, upon this Cornish over my head: I accordingly saw it there, and made so much haste to reach it, that while I had it in my Hand, my Foot being intangled in the Covering, I fell most unhappily upon the young Man, and the Knife run into his Heart in a Minute.

At this Spectacle I cried out most hideously; I beat my Head, my Face and Breast; I tore my Clothes; I threw my self on the Ground with

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unspeakable Sorrow and Grief: Alas, I cried, There was only some Hours wanting, to have put him out of that Danger, from which he sought Sanctuary here. And when I my self thought the Danger past, then I became his Murderer, and verified the Prediction. *But, O Lord!* said I, lifting up my Face and my Hands to Heaven, *I beg thy Pardon, and if I be guilty of his Death, let me not live any longer.*

Scheherazade perceiving Day, was obliged to break off this doleful Story. The Sultan of the *Indies* was mov'd with it, and found himself very uneasy to think what would become of the *Calender* after this, and resolv'd that *Scheherazade* should not die that day, because she was the only Person that could resolve him.

The Fifty-sixth Night.

Dinarzade awak'd the Sultaneſs next Morning as usual. If you be not asleep, Sister, said she, pray tell us what pass'd after the death of the young Man.

Madam, continued the third *Calender*, addressing himself to *Zobeide*, after this Misfortune I would have embrac'd Death without any Reluctancy, had it presented it self to me. But what we wish to our selves, whether good or bad, will not always happen: Nevertheless, considering with my self, that all my Tears and Sorrows would not bring the young Man to life again, and the Forty Days being expir'd, I might be surpriz'd by his Father, I quitted that subterranean Dwelling, laid down the great Stone upon the Entry of it, and cover'd it with Earth.

I had scarce done, when casting my Eyes upon the Sea towards the main Land, I perceiv'd the Vessel coming to fetch home the young Man. I began then to consider what I had best do; I said to my self, if I am seen by the old Man he will certainly lay hold on me, and perhaps cause me to be massacred by his Slaves. When he has seen his Son kill'd, all that I can alledge to justify my self, will not be able to persuade him of my Innocence. It is better for me then to withdraw since it is in my power, than to expose my self to his Resentments.

There happened to be near that subterranean Habitation a large Tree with thick Leaves, which I thought fit for me to hide in. I got up to it, and was no sooner fix'd in a Place where I could not be seen, but I saw the Vessel come to the same Place where she lay the first time.

The old Man and his Slaves landed immediately, and advanced towards the subterranean Dwelling with a Countenance that shew'd some hope; but when they saw the Earth had been newly removed, they changed Colour, particularly the old Man. They lifted up the Stone and went down; they called the young Man by his Name, but he not answering, their Fears increased, they went down to seek him; and at length found him lying upon the Bed with the Knife in his Heart, for I had not power to take it out. At this Sight they cried out lamentably, which increased my Sorrow, the old Man fell down in a Swoon. The Slaves, to give him Air, brought him up in their Arms, and laid him at the Foot of the Tree where I was; but notwithstanding all the Pains they took to recover him, the unfortunate Father continued

a long while in that Condition, and made them oftener than once, despair of his Life; but at last he came to himself. Then the Slaves brought up his Son's Corps, dress'd in his best Apparel, and when they had made a Grave, they put him into it. The old Man supported by two Slaves, and his Face all cover'd with Tears, threw the first Earth upon him, after which the Slaves fill'd up the Grave.

This being done, all the Furniture was brought up from under ground, and with the remaining Provisions, put on board the Vessel. The old Man overcome with Sorrow, and not being able to stand, was laid upon a sort of Litter and carried to the Ship, which put forth to Sea, and in a short time sail'd quite out of sight. The Day-light, which began to enter the Sultan's Apartment, oblig'd *Scheherazade* to stop here; *Schabriar* arose at his usual Hour, and for the same Reason as before, he prolong'd the Sultaness's Life, and left her with *Dinarzade*.

The Fifty-seventh Night.

THE next Morning before Day, *Dinarzade* address'd her self to the Sultaness in these Words; My dear Sister, if you be not asleep, be pleas'd to continue the Adventures of the third *Calender*. You must know then, Sister, said *Scheherazade*, that the Prince went on with the Relation of this Story to *Zobeide* and the Company as follows:

After the old Man and his Slaves were gone with the Vessel, I was left alone upon the Island. I lay that Night in the subterranean Dwelling, which they had shut up, and when the Day came,

came, I walk'd round the Isle, and stop'd in such places as I thought most proper to repose in when I had need.

I led this wearisome Life for a Month together; after which I perceiv'd the Sea to be mightily fallen, the Island to be much larger, and the main Land seem'd to be drawing nearer me. In effect, the Water grew so low, that there was but a small Stream between me and the *Terra firma*. I cross'd it, and the Water did not come above the middle of my Leg. I march'd so long upon the Slime and Sands, that I was very weary; at last I got upon firm Ground, and when at a good distance from the Sea, I saw a good way before me somewhat like a great Fire, which gave me some Comfort, for I said to my self, I shall find some body or other, it not being possible that this Fire should kindle of it self; but when I came nearer hand, I found my Error, and saw that what I had taken to be Fire was a Castle of red Copper, which the Beams of the Sun made look at a distance as if it had been in Flames.

I stopp'd near the Castle, and set down to admire its admirable Structure, and to rest awhile: I had not taken such a full View of this magnificent Building as it deserv'd, when I saw ten handsome young Men coming along, as if they had been taking a Walk, but that which most surpriz'd me was, that they were all blind of the Right Eye; they accompany'd an old Man who was very tall, and of a venerable Aspect.

I could not but wonder at the Sight of so many half-blind Men all together, and every one of the same Eye: As I was thinking in my Mind, by what Adventure all these Men could come together,

together, they came up to me, and seem'd to be mighty glad to see me; after the first Compliments were pass'd, they enquir'd what had brought me thither? I told them, my Story would be somewhat tedious, but if they would take the trouble to sit down, I would satisfy their Request. They did so, and I related to them all that had happen'd unto me since I left my Kingdom, which fill'd them with Astonishment.

After I had ended my Discourse, the young Gentlemen pray'd me to go with them into the Castle; I accepted the Proffer, and we pass'd thro' a great many Halls, Anti-Chambers, Bed-Chambers and Closets, very well furnish'd, and arriv'd at last into a spacious Hall, where there were ten small blue Sofa's set round, and separate from one another, upon which they sat by day, and slept by night. In the middle of this Round, there stood an eleventh Sofa, not so high as the rest, but of the same Colour, upon which the old Man above-mentioned sat down, and the young Gentlemen made use of the other ten; whereas each Sofa could only contain one Man, one of the young Men says to me, Comrade, sit down upon that Carpet in the middle of the Room, and do not enquire into any thing that concerns us, nor the Reason why we are all blind of the Right-Eye, be content with what you see, and let not your Curiosity go any farther.

The old Man having sat a little while, rose up and went out; but he return'd in a Minute or two, brought in Supper to those ten Gentlemen, distributed to each Man his Proportion by himself, and likewise brought me mine, which I eat my self, as the rest did; and
when

when Supper was almost done, he presented to each of us a Cup of Wine.

They thought my Story so extraordinary, that they made me repeat it after Supper, and this gave occasion to Discourses that lasted a good part of the Night. One of the Gentlemen observing that it was late, said to the old Man, You see it is time to go to bed, and you don't bring us that with which we may acquit our selves of our Duty: At these Words the old Man arose and went into a Closet, from whence he brought out upon his Head ten Basons one after another, all cover'd with blue Stuff; he set one before every Gentleman, together with a Light.

They uncover'd their Basons, in which there were Ashes, Coal-Dust, and Lamp-Black; they mix'd all together, and rubb'd and bedaub'd their Faces with it in such a manner, that they look'd very frightful. After having thus black'd themselves, they fell a weeping and lamenting, beating their Heads and Breasts, and cried continually, *This is the Fruit of our Idleness and Debauches.*

They continued thus almost the whole Night, and when they left off, the old Man brought them Water, with which they wash'd their Faces and Hands, they chang'd also their Clothes which were spoil'd, and put on others; so that they did not look in the least as if they had been doing so strange an Action.

You may judge, Madam, how uneasy I was all the while, I had a mind a thousand times to break the Silence which those young Gentlemen had impos'd upon me, and ask Questions, nor was it possible for me to sleep that Night.

After

After we got up next Day, we went out to walk, and then I told them, Gentlemen, I declare to you, that I must renounce that Law which you prescrib'd to me last Night, for I cannot observe it: You are Men of Sense, and all of you have wit in abundance, you have convinc'd me of it, yet I have seen you do such Actions as none but Madmen could be capable of. Whatever Misfortune befall me, I cannot forbear asking, Why you bedaub'd your Faces with black? How it comes that each of you has but one Eye? some singular thing must certainly be the Cause of it, therefore I conjure you to satisfy my Curiosity. To these pressing instances they answer'd nothing, but that it was none of my Business to ask such Questions, and that I should do well to hold my peace.

We pass'd that Day in Discourses upon indifferent Subjects, and when Night was come, and every Man had supp'd, the old Man brought in the blue Basons, and the young Gentlemen bedaub'd their Faces, wept and beat themselves, crying, *This is the fruit of our Idleness and Debauches*, as before, and continued the same Actions the following Night. At last, not being able to resist my Curiosity, I earnestly pray'd them to satisfy me, or to show me how to return to my own Kingdom; for it was impossible for me to keep them company any longer, and to see every Night such an odd Spectacle, without being permitted to know the reason.

One of the Gentlemen answer'd in behalf of the rest, Do not wonder at our Conduct in regard to yourself; and that hitherto we have not granted your Request, it's out of mere kindness, to prevent your Sorrow of being reduced

ced to the same condition with us. If you have a mind to try our unfortunate Destiny, you need but speak, and we will give you the Satisfaction you desire. I told them I was resolv'd on't, let come what will. Once more, said the same Gentlemen, we advise you to restrain your Curiosity, it will cost you the loss of your right Eye. No matter, said I, I declare to you, that if such a Misfortune befall me, I will not impute it to you, but to my self.

He farther represented unto me, that when I had lost an Eye, I must not hope to stay with them, if I were so minded, because their number was complete, and no Addition could be made to it. I told them that it would be a great Satisfaction to me never to part from such honest Gentlemen, but if there were necessity for it, I was ready to submit; and let it cost me what it would, I begged them to grant my Request.

The ten Gentlemen perceiving that I was so positive in my Resolution, took a Sheep and kill'd it, and after they had taken off the Skin presented me with the Knife, telling me it would be useful to me on a certain occasion, which they should tell me of presently. We must sew you into this Skin, said they, and then leave you; upon which a Fowl of a monstrous size, call'd a Roc, will appear in the Air, and taking you to be a Sheep, will come down upon you, and carry you up to the very Sky: but let not that frighten you, he will come down with you again, and lay you on the top of a Mountain. When you find your self upon the Ground, cut the Skin with the Knife, and throw it off. As soon as the Roc sees you, he will fly away for fear, and leave you at liberty: Do not stay, but
walk

walk on till you come to a prodigious large Castle, all cover'd with Plates of Gold, large Emeralds, and other precious Stones: Go up to the Gate, which always stands open, and walk in: We have been in the Castle as long as we have been here; we will tell you nothing of what we saw, or what befel us there, you will learn it of yourself; all that we can inform you is, that it hath cost each of us our right Eye, and the Penance which you have been witness to, is what we are obliged to do, because we have been there. The History of each of us in particular is so full of extraordinary Adventures, that a large Volume would not contain 'em. But we must explain our selves no further.

Here *Scheherazade* broke off her Discourse, and says to the Sultan of the *Indies*, Sir, my Sister call'd upon me this Morning sooner than ordinary, I fear I have wearied your Majesty's Patience. But now Day appears in very good Season, and commands my Silence. *Schahriar's* Curiosity prevail'd still upon him to dispense with his cruel Oath.

The Fifty-eighth Night.

Dinarzade did not call so early this Night as she did the last, yet she call'd upon the Sultaneſs before day: If you be not asleep, Sister, pray continue the Story of the third *Calender*. *Scheherazade* resum'd it thus, personating the *Calender* in his Discourse to *Zobeide*.

Madam, when the Gentlemen had ended this Discourse, I wrapt my self in the Sheep's Skin, held fast the Knife which was given me; and
after

after those young Gentlemen had been at the trouble to sew the Skin about me, they retir'd into the Hall, and left me on the place. The Roc they had spoke of was not long a coming, he fell down upon me, took me up between his Talons like a Sheep, and carried me up to the top of the Mountain.

When I found my self upon the ground, I made use of the Knife, cut the Skin, and throwing it off, the Roc at the sight of me flew away. This Roc is a white Bird of a monstrous size, his Strength is such, that he can lift up Elephants from the Plains, and carry them to the tops of Mountains, where he feeds upon them.

Being impatient till I reach'd the Castle, I lost no time, but made so much haste, that I got thither in half a Day's Journey, and I must say, that I found it surpass'd the Description they had given me of it.

The Gate being open, I entred into a Court that was square, and so large, that there was round it 99 Gates of Wood of Sanders and Aloes, with one of Gold, without counting those of several magnificent Stair-cases, that led up to Apartments above, besides many more I could not see. The hundred Doors I spoke of open'd into Gardens or Store-houses full of Riches, or into places which contain'd things wonderful to be seen.

I saw a Door standing open just before me, thro' which I entred into a large Hall, where I found forty young Ladies of such perfect Beauty, that Imagination could not go beyond it; they were all most sumptuously apparell'd, and as soon as they saw me, rose up, and with-

out

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out expecting my Compliments, said to me with Demonstrations of Joy, Noble Sir, you are very welcome. And one spoke to me in the Name of the rest thus; We have been in expectation a long while of such a Gentleman as you, your Mien assures us that you are Master of all the good Qualities we can wish for; and we hope you will not find our Company disagreeable or unworthy of yours.

They forced me, notwithstanding all the Opposition I could make, to sit down on a Seat that was higher than theirs, and tho' I signified that I was uneasy; That's your Place, said they, you are at present our Lord, Master, and Judge, and we are your Slaves, ready to obey your Commands.

Nothing in the World, Madam, did so much astonish me as the Passion and Eagerness of those fair Ladies, to do me all possible Service. One brought hot Water to wash my Feet, a second poured sweet-scented Water on my Hands, others brought me all sorts of Necessaries, and Change of Apparel; and others brought in a magnificent Collation; and the rest came with Glasses in their Hands, to fill me delicious Wines, and all in good order, and in the most charming manner that could be. I eat and drank; after which the Ladies placed themselves about me, and desired an Account of my Travels. I gave them a full Relation of my Adventures, which lasted till Night came on.

Sheherazade making a stop here, her Sister ask'd her the Reason; Do you not see 'tis Day, says the Sultaneß, wherefore did you not call me sooner?

The Sultan expecting some pleasant Adventures from the Arrival of the third *Calender* at the Palace of the Forty Ladies, would not deprive himself of the Pleasure to hear them, and therefore again put off the Death of the Sultaneſs.

The Fifty-ninth Night.

*D*Inarzade ſlept as long this Night as ſhe did the laſt, and when it was almoſt Day ſhe called to the Sultaneſs, Dear Siſter, if you be not aſleep, pray tell us what paſſ'd in the fine Caſtle where you left us yeſterday. I will, ſaid *Scheherazade*, and addreſſing her Speech to the Sultan, ſaid, Sir, the *Calender* reſum'd his Narrative after this manner.

When I had made an end of my Story, which I related to the Forty Ladies, ſome of them that ſat neareſt me, ſtaid to keep me Company, whiſt the reſt, ſeeing it was dark, roſe up to fetch Tapers: They brought a prodigious Quantity, which made ſuch a marvellous Light as if it had been Day, and they were ſo proportionably diſpoſed, that nothing could be more beautiful.

Other Ladies cover'd a Table with dry Fruits, Sweet-meats, and every thing proper to make the Liquor reſiſh: And a Side-board was ſet with ſeveral ſorts of Wines, and other Liquors. Some of the Ladies came in with Muſical Inſtruments, and when every thing was prepared, they invited me to ſit down to Supper. The Ladies ſat down with me, and we continued a long while at Supper. They that were to play upon the Inſtruments, and ſing, roſe up and
made

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made a most charming Consort. The others began a sort of Ball, and danc'd by two and two, one after another, with a wonderful good Grace.

It was past Midnight e'er those Divertisements ended: At length one of the Ladies says to me, *You are doubtless wearied by the Journey you have made to-day; it is time for you to go to rest, your Lodging is prepared: But before you depart, make choice of any of us you like best, to be your Bed-fellow.* I answer'd, *That I knew better things than to offer to make my own Choice, since they were all equally beautiful, witty, and worthy of my Respects and Service, and that I would not be guilty of so much Incivility, as to prefer one before another.*

The same Lady that spoke to me before, answer'd, *We are very well satisfied of your Civility, and find you are afraid to create a Jealousy among us, which occasions your Modesty; but let not this hinder you. We assure you, that the good Fortune of her whom you chuse, shall cause no Jealousy; for we are agreed among our selves, that every Day one of us shall have the same Honour, till it go round; and when forty Days are past, to begin again; therefore make your free Choice, and lose no Time to go and take the Repose you stand in need of.* I was oblig'd to yield to their Instances, and offer'd my Hand to the Lady that spoke; she in return, gave me hers, and we were conducted to a sumptuous Apartment, where they left us; and then every one retir'd to their own Apartment. But Day appears, Sir, said Scheherazade to the Sultan, and your Majesty, I hope, will permit me to leave the Calender Prince with his Lady. Schabriar return'd no Answer, but

said to himself as he got up, I must allow that the Story is extraordinary fine, and that I should be very much in the wrong not to hear it out.

The Sixtieth Night.

*D*inarzade did not fail about the latter end of the next Night to address the Sultaneſs thus: If you be not aſleep, Siſter, pray relate to us the following part of the wonderful Story of the third *Calender*: Very willingly, ſaid *Scheherazade*. That Prince continued it thus; I was ſcarce dreſs'd next Morning, till the other Thirty-nine Ladies came into my Chamber all in other Dreſſes than they had the Day before: They bid me Good-Morrow, and inquir'd into my Health; after which they carried me to a Bagnio, where they waſh'd me themſelves, and whether I would or no, ſerv'd me in every thing I ſtood in need of; and when I came out of the Bath, they made me put on another Suit much richer than the former.

We paſt the whole Day almoſt conſtantly at Table; and when it was Bed-time, they pray'd me again to make choice of one of them to keep me Company. In ſhort, Madam, not to weary you with Repetitions, I muſt tell you, that I continu'd a whole Year among thoſe Forty Ladies, and receiv'd them into my Bed one after another; and during all the time of this voluptuous Life, we met not with the leaſt kind of Trouble. When the Year was expir'd, I was ſtrangely ſurpriz'd that thoſe 40 Ladies, inſtead of appearing with their uſual Cheerfulneſs, to aſk how I did, enter'd one Morning
into

into my Chamber all in Tears: They embraced me with great Tenderness, one after another, saying, *Adieu, dear Prince, adieu, for we must leave you.* Their Tears affected me, I pray'd them to tell me the reason of their Grief, and of the Separation they spoke of. *For God's sake, fair Ladies, let me know,* said I, *if it be in my Power to comfort you, or if my Assistance can be any way useful to you.* Instead of returning a direct Answer, *Would to God,* said they, *we had never seen or known you. Several Gentlemen have honour'd us with their Company before you; but never one of them had that Comeliness, that Sweetness, that Pleasantness of Humour and Merit which you have; we know not how to live without you.* After they had spoke these Words, they began to weep bitterly. *My dear Ladies,* said I, *be so kind as not to keep me in suspense any more: Tell me the Cause of your Sorrow.* *Alas!* said they, *what other thing could be capable of grieving us, but the necessity of parting from you? It may so happen, that we shall never see you again; but if you be so minded, and have Command enough over your self, it is not impossible for us to meet again.* Ladies, said I, *I do not understand your Meaning, pray explain your selves more clearly.*

Oh then! said one of them, *to satisfy you, we must acquaint you that we are all Princesses, Daughters of Kings, we live here together in such manner as you have seen; but at the end of every Year we are oblig'd to be absent forty Days upon indispensable Duties, which we are not permitted to reveal; and afterwards we return again to this Castle. Yesterday was the last of the Year, and we must leave you this*

L 3

Day,

Day, which is the Cause of our Grief. Before we depart, we will leave you the Keys to every thing, especially those belonging to the hundred Doors, where you will find enough to satisfy your Curiosity, and to forgetten your Solitude during our Absence: But for your own Welfare and our particular Concern in you, we recommend unto you to forbear opening the Golden Door, for if you do, we shall never see you again; and the fear of this augments our Grief. We hope, nevertheless, that you will follow the Advice we give you, as you tender your own Quiet and the Happiness of your Life; therefore take heed that you do not give way to indiscreet Curiosity, for you will do your self a considerable Prejudice. We conjure you therefore not to commit this Fault, but to let us have the Comfort of finding you here again after forty Days. We would willingly carry the Key of the Golden Door along with us; but that would be an Affront to a Prince like you, to question your Discretion and Modesty. Scheherazade had a mind to go on; but the law Day appear, and stopped. The Sultan being curious to know what the third Calender would do when the forty Ladies were gone, and had left him alone in the Castle, referred the hearing of it till next Day.

The Sixty-first Night.

THE officious *Dinarzade* being awake long before Day, called to the Sultanes, If you be not asleep, Sister, consider that it is time to tell the remaining part of the Story to our Lord the Sultan. *Scheherazade* addressing her self

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self to the Sultan, said, Sir, your Majesty may be pleas'd to know, that the *Calender* pursu'd his Story thus.

Madam, said he, this Discourse of the fair Princeesses made me extreme sorrowful, I omitted not to make them sensible how much their Absence would afflict me; I thanked them for their good Advice, and assured 'em that I would follow it, and willingly do what was much more difficult, in order to be so happy as to pass the rest of my Days with Ladies of such rare Qualifications. We took leave of one another with a great deal of Tenderneſs, and having embraced them all, at last they departed, and I was left alone in the Castle.

Their agreeable Company, the good Cheer, the Concerts of Musick, and other Pleasures, had so much diverted me during the whole Year, that I neither had Time, nor the least Desire to see the wonderful things contain'd in this enchanted Palace. Nay, I did not so much as take notice of a thousand rare Objects that were every Day in my Sight; for I was so taken with the charming Beauty of those Ladies, and took so much Pleasure in seeing them wholly imploy'd to oblige me, that their Departure afflicted me very sensibly; and tho' their Absence was to be only Forty Days, it seem'd to me an Age to live without them.

I promis'd my self not to forget the important Advice they had given me, not to open the Golden Door; but as I was permitted to satisfy my Curiosity in every thing else, I took the first of the Keys of the other Doors, which were hung up in good order.

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I open'd the first Door, and came into an Orchard, which I believe the Universe could not equal: I could not imagine that any thing could surpass it, but that which our Religion promises us after Death; the Symmetry, the Neatness, the admirable Order of the Trees, the abundance and diversity of a thousand sorts of unknown Fruits, their Freshness and Beauty, ravish'd my sight.

I ought not to forget, Madam, to acquaint you, that this delicious Orchard was water'd after a very particular manner; there were Channels so artificially and proportionably digged, that they carried Water in abundance to the Roots of such Trees as wanted it, for making them procure their Leaves and Flowers. Others carried it to those that had their Fruit budded: Some carried it in lesser Quantities to those whose Fruit was growing big, and others carried only so much as was just requisite to water those who had their Fruit come to Perfection, and only wanted to be ripen'd. They exceeded the ordinary Fruits of our Gardens very much in bigness; and lastly, those Channels that watered the Trees whose Fruit was ripe, had no more Moisture than just what would preserve them from withering.

I could never be weary to look at and admire so sweet a Place; and I should never have left it, had I not conceiv'd a greater Idea of the other Things which I had not seen. I went out at last with my Mind fill'd with those Wonders: I shut that Door, and open'd the next.

Instead of an Orchard, I found a Flower-Garden, which was no less extraordinary in its kind: It contained a spacious Plot, not water'd so profusely as the former, but with greater Niceness,

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Niceness, furnishing no more Water than just what each Flower requir'd. The Roses, Jessamines, Violets, Dills, Hyacinths, Wind-Flowers, Tulips, Crow-foots, Pinks, Lillies, and an infinite number of other Flowers, which don't grow in other Places but at certain times, were there flourishing all at once, and nothing could be more delicious than the fragrant Smell of this Garden.

I open'd the third Door, where I found a large Volary pav'd with Marble of several fine Colours that were not common. The Cage was made of Sanders and Wood of Aloe, it contained a vast number of Nightingales, Goldfinches, Canary-Birds, Larks, and other rare Singing-Birds which I never heard of; and the Vessels that held their Seed and Water, were of the most precious Jaspis or Agat.

Besides, this Volary was so exceeding neat, that considering its Extent, one would think there could be no less than a hundred Persons to keep it so clean as it was; but all this while not one Soul appear'd either here or in the Gardens where I had been; and yet I could not perceive a Weed, or any superfluous thing there. The Sun was down, and I retir'd, being perfectly charm'd with the chirping Notes of the Multitude of Birds, who then began to perch upon such places as were convenient for them to repose on during the Night; I went to my Chamber, resolving to open all the rest of the Doors the Days following, excepting that of Gold.

I fail'd not to open the fourth Door next Day, and if what I had seen before was capable of surprizing me, that which I saw then put me into a perfect Extasy. I went into a large

Court surrounded with Buildings of an admirable Structure, the Description of which I will pass by, to avoid Prolixity.

This Building had forty Doors wide open, and thro' each of them there was an Entrance into a Treasury, several of which were of greater Value than the largest Kingdoms. The first contain'd Heaps of Pearls; and what is almost incredible, the number of those Stones which are most precious, and as large as Pigeons Eggs, exceeded the number of those of the ordinary Size. In the second Treasury there were Diamonds, Carbuncles and Rubies. In the third there were Emeralds. In the fourth there were Ingots of Gold. In the fifth Money. In the sixth Ingots of Silver. In the two following there was also Money. The rest contained Amethysts, Chrysolits, Topazes, Opals, Turkoises and Hyacinths, with all other fine Stones unknown to us, without mentioning Agat, Jaspers, Cornelian and Coral, of which there was a Store-house fill'd not only with Branches, but whole Trees.

Being filled with Amazement and Admiration, I cried out to my self, after having seen all these Riches, Now, if all the Treasures of the Kings of the Universe were gathered together in one Place, they could not come near this: What good fortune have I to possess all this Wealth with so many admirable Princesses?

I shall not stay, Madam, to tell you the particulars of all the other rare and precious Things I saw the Days following; I shall only tell you, that 39 Days afforded me but just as much time as was necessary to open 99 Doors, and to admire all that presented it self to my View,

View, so that there was only the hundredth Door left, the opening of which I was forbid.

Day begun to appear in the Apartments of the Sultan of the *Indies*, which imposed Silence upon *Scheherazade*: But *Schabriar* was too much taken with this pleasant Story, not to hear the remainder of it next Day, and accordingly he gat up with that Resolution.

The Sixty-second Night.

Dinarzade, who had as ardent a Desire as *Schabriar* to hear what wonderful things were lock'd up by the Key belonging to the Golden Door, called the Sultaness very early. If you be not asleep, Sister, pray make an end of that amazing Story of the third *Calender*. He went on thus, says *Scheherazade*; I was come to the fortieth Day after the Departure of these charming Princesses, and had I but retained so much Power over my self as I ought to have had, I should have been this day the happiest of all Mankind, whereas now I am the most unfortunate. They were to return next Day, and the Pleasure of seeing them again ought to have restrained my Curiosity: But thro' my Weakness, which I shall ever repent, I yielded to the Temptations of the Evil Spirit, who gave me no rest till I had thrown my self into those Misfortunes that I have since undergone.

I open'd that fatal Door which I promised not to meddle with, and had not moved my Foot to go in, till a smell that was pleasant enough, but contrary to my Constitution, made me faint away: Nevertheless I came to my

self again, and instead of taking notice of this Warning to shut the Door, and forbear satisfying my Curiosity, I went in, after I had stood some time in the Air to carry off the Scent, which did not incommode me any more; I found a large Place very well vaulted; the Pavement was strew'd over with Saffron; several Candlesticks of massy Gold, with lighted Tapers that smell'd of Aloes and Ambergreese, lighted the Place; and this Light was augmented by Lamps of Gold and Silver, that burnt with Oil made of several sorts of sweet-scented Materials.

Amongst a great many Objects that engaged my Attention, I perceived a black Horse, of the handsomest and best Shape that ever was seen. I went nearer, the better to observe him, and found he had a Saddle and a Bridle of massy Gold, curiously wrought. The one side of his Trough was fill'd with clean Barley, and Sessems, and the other with Rose-Water: I took him by the Bridle, and led him forth to view him by the Light: I got on his Back, and would have had him move; but he not stirring, I whipp'd him with a Switch I had taken up in his magnificent Stable; and he had no sooner felt the Stroke, when he began to neigh with a horrible Noise, and extended his Wings which I had not seen before; he flew up with me into the Air, quite out of sight. I thought on nothing then, but to sit fast; and considering the Fear that had seized upon me, I sat very well. He afterwards flew down again towards the Earth, and lighting upon the Terrass of a Castle, without giving me any Time to get off, he shook me out of the Saddle with such Force,
that

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that he made me fall behind him, and with the End of his Tail struck out my Right Eye.

Thus I became blind of one Eye, and then I began to remember the Predictions of the ten young Gentlemen. The Horse flew again out of sight. I got up very much troubled at the Misfortune I had brought upon my self, I walk'd upon the Terrass, covering my Eye with one of my Hands, for it pain'd me exceedingly, and then came down and enter'd into a Hall, which I knew presently by the ten Sofa's in a Circle, and the Eleventh in the middle, lower than the rest, to be the same Castle from whence I was taken away by the Roc.

The ten half-blind Gentlemen were not in the Hall when I came in, but came soon after with the old Man; they were not at all surpriz'd to see me again, nor at the loss of my Eye; but said, *We are very sorry that we cannot congratulate you upon your Return, as we could have desired; but we are not the Cause of your Misfortune. I should be in the wrong to accuse you, said I, for I have drawn it upon my self, and I can charge the Fault upon no other Person. If it be a Consolation to the Unfortunate, said they, to have Fellows, this Example may afford us a Subject of rejoicing; a'l that has happened to you, we have also undergone; we tasted all sorts of Pleasure, during a Year successively; and we had continued to enjoy the same Happiness still, had we not opened the Golden Door, when the Princesses were absent: You have been no wiser than we, and you had likewise the same Punishment; we would gladly receive you among us, to do such Penance as we do, tho' we know not how long it may continue. But we have already*
declared

declared the Reasons that hinder us, therefore depart from hence and go to the Court of *Bagdat*, where you shall meet with him that can decide your Destiny: They told me the Way I was to travel, and so I left them.

On the Road I caused my Beard and Eyebrows to be shaven, and took on a *Calender's* Habit: I have had a long Journey, but at last I arrived this Evening in this City, where I met these my Brother *Calenders* at the Gate, being Strangers as well as myself. We wonder'd much at one another, to see we were all three blind of the same Eye; but we had not leisure to discourse long of our common Calamities, we only had so much time as to come hither, to implore those Favours which you have been generously pleased to grant us.

The third *Calender* having finished this Relation of his Adventures, *Zobeide* address'd her Speech to him and his Fellow-*Calenders* thus: Go where-ever you think fit, you are all three at liberty. But one of them answer'd, Madam, we beg you to pardon our Curiosity, and permit us to hear those Gentlemen's Stories who have not yet spoke. Then the Lady turn'd to that side where the Califf, the Visier *Giafar*, and *Mesrour* stood, whom she knew not; but said to them, 'Tis now your turn to tell me your Adventures, therefore speak.

The Grand Visier *Giafar*, who had always been the Spokesman, answer'd *Zobeide*, thus: Madam, in order to obey you, we need only to repeat what we have said already, before we enter'd your House: We are Merchants of *Moussol*, that came to *Bagdat*, to sell our Merchandize that lies in the *Khan*, where we lodge. We din'd to-day with several other Persons of
our

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our Profession, at a Merchant's House of this City; who, after he had treated us with choice Dainties, and excellent Wines, sent for Men and Women Dancers, and Musicians. The great Noise we made, brought in the Watch, who arrested some of the Company, and we had the good Fortune to escape: But it being already late, and the Door of our *Khan* shut up, we knew not whither to retire. It was our Hap, as we passed along this Street, to hear Mirth at your House, which made us determine to knock at your Gate. This is all the Account that we can give you in obedience to your Commands.

Zobeide having heard this Discourse, seem'd to hesitate upon what she should say, which the *Calenders* perceiving, pray'd her to grant the same Favour to the three *Moussol* Merchants, as she had done unto them. Well then, said she, I give my Consent, for you shall all be equally obliged to me: I pardon you all, provided you depart immediately out of this House, and go whither you please.

Zobeide having given this Command in a Tone that signified she would be obey'd, the Califf, the Visier, *Mefrour*, the three *Calenders*, and the Porter, departed without saying one Word: For the Presence of the seven Slaves with their Weapons, kept them in awe. When they were out of the House, and the Door shut, the Califf said to the *Calenders*, without making himself known, *You Gentlemen Strangers, that are newly come to Town, which way do you design to go, since it is not yet Day? 'Tis that which perplexes us, Sir,* said they. *Follow us, replies the Califf; and we will bring you out of Danger.* After say-
in;

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ing these Words, he whisper'd to the Visier, *Take them along with you, and to-morrow Morning bring them to me, I will cause their History to be put in Writing, for it deserves a Place in the Annals of my Reign.*

The Visier *Giafar* took the three *Calenders* along with him; the Porter went to his Quarters, and the Califf and *Mesrour* returned to the Palace: The Califf went to Bed, but could not get a Wink of sleep, his Spirits were so perplex'd by the extraordinary Things he had seen and heard: But above all, he was most concerned to know who *Zobeide* was; what Reason she could have to be so severe to the two black Bitches, and why *Amine* had her Bosom so mortify'd. Day began to appear whilst he was thinking upon these Things; he arose and went to his Council-Chamber, where he us'd to give Audience, and sat upon his Throne.

The Grand Visier came in a little after, and paid his Respects as usual. Visier, said the Califf, the Affairs that we have to consider at present are not very pressing, that of the three Ladies and the two black Bitches, is much more so: My Mind cannot be at ease, till I be thorowly satisfied in all those Matters that have surpriz'd me so much. Go bring these Ladies, and the *Calenders* at the same time; make haste, and remember that I do impatiently expect your Return.

The Visier, that knew his Master's quick and fiery Temper, made haste to obey, and went to the Ladies, to whom he communicated, in a civil way, the Orders he had to bring them before the Califf, without taking any notice of what had passed the Night before at their House.

The

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The Ladies put on their Veils, and went with the Visier; as he passed by his own House, he took the three *Calenders* along with him, and they, in the mean time, had got notice, that they had both seen and spoke with the Califf, without knowing him. The Visier brought them to the Palace with so much diligence, that the Califf was mighty well pleas'd at it. This Prince, that he might keep a due Decorum, before all the Officers of his Court that were then present, made those Ladies be placed behind the Hanging of the Door of the Room that was next his Bed-Chamber, and kept the three *Calenders* by him; who, by their respectful Behaviour, gave sufficient Proof, that they were not ignorant before whom they had the Honour to appear.

When the Ladies were placed, the Califf turned towards them, and said, Ladies, when I shall acquaint you that I came last Night disguis'd, in a Merchant's Habit, into your House, it will certainly alarm you, and make you to fear that you have offended me; and perhaps, you believe that I have sent for you to no other end, but to show some Marks of my Resentment: But be not afraid, you may rest assur'd, that I have forgot all that is past, and am very well satisfied with your Conduct. I wish that all the Ladies of *Bagdat* had had as much Discretion as you have given proof of before me. I shall always remember the Moderation you made use of, after the Incivility that we had committed. I was then a Merchant of *Mouffol*, but am at present *Haroun Alraschid*, the seventh Califf of the Glorious House of *Abbas*, that holds the Place of our great Prophet. I have only sent for you, to know who you are, and to ask you for

for what Reason one of you, after severely whipping the two black Bitches, did weep with them? And I am no less curious to know, why another of you has her Bosom all full of Scars.

Tho' the Califf pronounced these Words very distinctly, and that the three Ladies heard him well enough, yet the Visier *Giafar* did, out of Ceremony, repeat them over again.

But, Sir, said *Scheherazade*, 'tis Day, and if your Majesty thinks fit that I shall go on with the rest of this Story, you will be pleased to prolong my Life until to-morrow. The Sultan agreed to it, knowing that *Scheherazade* would relate the History of *Zobeide*, which he had a mighty Desire to hear.

The Sixty-third Night.

DEAR Sister, says *Dinarzade*, about break of Day, if you be not asleep, pray tell us the Story of *Zobeide*; for doubtless that Lady told it to the Califf. She certainly did, for *Scheherazade*, after that Prince, by his Discourse had encouraged her to it. And it was in this manner that she satisfied his Curiosity.

The Story of Zobeide.

COMMANDER of the Faithful, says she, The Relation which I am about to give your Majesty is one of the strangest that ever was heard. The two black Bitches, and my self, are Sisters, by the same Father and Mother; and I shall acquaint you by what strange Accident they came to be metamorphos'd. The
two

two Ladies that live with me, and are now here, are also my Sisters by the Father's side, but by another Mother : She that has the Scars on her Breast, her Name is *Amine*, the other is *Sasse*, and mine *Zobeide*.

After our Father's Death, the Estate that he left us was equally divided among us ; and as soon as those two Sisters received their Portions, they went from me to live with their Mother. My other two Sisters and my self stay'd with our Mother, who was then alive, and when she died left each of us a thousand Sequins. As soon as we received our Portions, the two elder (for I am the youngest) being married, followed their Husbands, and left me alone. Some time after, my eldest Sister's Husband sold all that he had, and with that Money and my Sister's Portion they went both into *Africa*, where her Husband, by riotous Living and Debauchery, spent all ; and finding himself reduc'd to Poverty, he found a Pretext for divorcing my Sister, and put her away.

She return'd to this City, and having suffer'd incredible Hardships by the way, came to me in so lamentable a Condition, that it would have mov'd the hardest Heart to Compassion. I received her with all the Tenderneſs she could expect, and inquiring into the Cause of her sad Condition, she told me with Tears, how inhumanly her Husband had dealt by her. I was so much concern'd at her Misfortune, that it drew Tears from my Eyes : I put her into a Bagnio, and cloathed her with my own Apparel, and spoke to her thus. Sister, you are my elder, and I esteem you as my Mother : During your Absence, God has blest the Portion that fell to my share, and the Employment I follow, to
feed

feed and bring up Silk-Worms. Assure your self there's nothing I have but what is at your Service, and as much at your Disposal as my own.

We liv'd very comfortably together for some Months, and as we were often discoursing together about our third Sister, and wondering we heard no News of her, she came in as bad a Condition as the elder; her Husband had treat-ed her after the same manner; and I receiv'd her likewise with the same Affection I had done the former.

Some time after, my two Sisters, on pretence that they would not be chargeable to me, told me they had thoughts to marry again. I answer'd them, *that if their putting me to Charge was all the Reason, they might lay those Thoughts aside, and be very welcome to stay with me; for what I had, would be sufficient to maintain us all three answerable to our Condition: But, says I, I rather believe you have a mind to marry again; which if you have, I'm sure it will very much surprize me: After the Experience you have had of the small Satisfaction there is in Wedlock, is it possible you dare venture a second time? You know how rare it is to meet with a Husband that is a real honest Man. Believe what I say, and let us stay together, and live as comfortably as we can.* All my Persuasion was in vain, they were resolv'd to marry, and so they did. But after some Months were past, they came back again, and begg'd my Pardon a thousand times, for not following my Advice. *You are our younger Sister, said they, and abundantly more wise than we; but if you will vouchsafe to receive us once more into your House, and*
account

account us your Slaves, we shall never commit such a Fault again. My Answer was, *Dear Sisters, I have not alter'd my Mind with respect to you since we last parted from one another; come again, and take part of what I have.* Upon this I embrac'd them, and we liv'd together as we did formerly.

We continued thus a whole Year in perfect Love and Tranquillity; and seeing that God had increased my small Stock, I projected a Voyage by Sea, to hazard somewhat in Trade. To this end I went with my two Sisters to *Balsora*, where I bought a Ship ready fitted for Sea, and laded her with such Merchandize as I brought from *Bagdat*; we set sail with a fair Wind, and soon got thro' the *Persian Gulph*; and when we got into the Ocean, we steer'd our Course for the *Indies*, and saw Land the twentieth Day. 'Twas a very high Mountain, at the bottom of which we saw a great Town; and having a fresh Gale, we soon reach'd the Harbour, where we cast Anchor.

I had not Patience to stay till my Sisters were dress'd to go along with me, but went ashore in the Boat by myself; and making directly to the Gate of the Town, I saw there a great number of Men upon the Guard, some sitting, and others standing with Battoons in their Hands; and they had all such dreadful Countenances that it frighten'd me: but perceiving they had no Motion, nay not so much as with their Eyes, I took Courage and went nearer, and then found they were all turn'd into Stones. I enter'd the Town and pass'd thro' the several Streets, where there stood every where Men in several Postures, but all unmovable and petrified. On that side where the Merchants liv'd I found most of the
Shops

Shops shut, and in such as were open, I likewise found the People petrified. I looked up the Chimneys, but saw no Smpak; which made me conjecture that those within as well as those without, were all turned into Stones.

Being come into a vast Square, in the Heart of the City, I perceived a great Gate covered with Plates of Gold, the two Leaves of which stood open, and a Curtain of Silk Stuff seemed to be drawn before it: I also saw a Lamp hanging over the Gate. After I had well considered the Fabrick, I made no doubt but it was the Palace of the Prince who reigned over that Country: And being very much astonish'd that I had not met with one living Creature, I went thither in hopes to find some; I entered the Gate, and was still more surprized, when I saw none but the Guards in the Porches, all petrified; some standing, some sitting, and some lying.

I crossed over a large Court, where I saw a stately Building just before me, the Windows of which were enclosed with Gates of massy Gold: I look'd upon it to be the Queen's Apartment, and went into a large Hall, where there stood several black Eunuchs turned into Stone. I went from thence into a Room richly hung and furnish'd, where I perceiv'd a Lady in the same manner. I knew it to be the Queen by the Crown of Gold that hung over her Head, and a Necklace of Pearl about her Neck, each of them as big as a Nut; I went up close to her to view it, and never saw any thing finer.

I stood some time and admir'd the Riches and Magnificence of the Room; but above all, the Foot-cloth, the Cushions and the Sofa's, which were all lined with *Indian* Stuff of Gold, with
 Pictures

Pictures of Men and Beasts in Silver, drawn to Admiration.

Scheherazade would have continued longer, but Day-light put a stop to her Discourse. The Sultan was mightily pleas'd with the Story: I must, said he, as he was getting out of Bed, know what all this wonderful Petrification of Men will at last come to.

The Sixty-fourth Night.

Dinarzade was so extremely pleas'd with the beginning of this Story of *Zobeide*, that she did not fail to call to the Sultaness before Day: If you be not asleep, Sister, pray let us know what *Zobeide* saw more in this strange Palace. *Scheherazade* answer'd, the Lady continued the Story of the Califf in this manner.

Sir, said she, I went out of the Chamber where the petrified Queen was, and came thro' several other Apartments and Closets richly furnished, and at last came into a vast large Room, where there was a Throne of massy Gold, rais'd several Steps above the Floor, and enriched with large inchas'd Emeralds, and a Bed upon the Throne of rich Stuff, embroidered with Pearls. That which surprized me more than all the rest, was a sparkling Light which came from above the Bed: Being curious to know from whence it came, I mounted the Steps, and lifting up my Head I saw a Diamond as big as the Egg of an Ostrich, lying upon a low Stool; it was so pure, that I could not find the least Blemish in it, and it sparkled so bright, that I could not endure the Lustre of it, when I saw it by Day.

On

On each side of the Bed's-head there stood a lighted Flambeau, but to what Use I could not apprehend: However, it made me imagine that there was some living Creature in this Place; for I could not believe that these Torches continued thus burning of themselves. Several other Rarities detained my Curiosity in this Room, which was inestimable, were it only for the Diamond I mentioned.

The Doors being all open, or but half-shut, I survey'd some other Apartments, that were as fine as those I had already seen. I look'd into all the Offices and Store-Rooms, which were full of infinite Riches, and I was so much taken with the Sight of all these wonderful Things, that I forgot my self, and did not think on my Ship, or my Sisters; my whole Design was, to satisfy my Curiosity: Mean time, Night came on, which put me in mind that it was time to retire. I was for returning by the same Way I came in, but I could not find it, I lost my self among the Apartments; and finding I was come back again to that large Room, where the Throne, the Couch, the large Diamond, and the Torches stood, I resolv'd to make my Night's Lodging there, and to depart the next Morning betimes, to get aboard my Ship. I laid my self down upon the Couch, not without some dread to be alone in a wild Place; and this Fear hinder'd my sleep.

About Midnight I heard a Voice like that of a Man reading the *Alcoran*, after the same manner, and in the same Tone, as we use to read it in our Mosques. Being extremely glad to hear it, I got up immediately, and taking a Torch in my Hand to light me, I pass'd from one Chamber to another, on that side where the Voice
came

came from: I came to the Closet-door, where I stood still, no wise doubting that it came from thence. I set down my Torch upon the Ground, and looking through a Window, I found it to be an Oratory. In short, it had, as we have in our Mosques, a Niche, that shews where we must turn to say our Prayers: There were also Lamps hung up, and two Candlesticks with large Tapers of white Wax burning.

I saw a little Carpet laid down like those we have to kneel upon when we say Prayers, and a comely young Man sat upon this Carpet reading the *Alcoran*, which lay before him upon a Desk, with great Devotion. At the sight of this I was transported with Admiration, I wondred how it came to pass that he should be the only living Creature in a Town where all the People were turn'd into Stones, and I did not doubt but there was something in it very extraordinary.

The Door being only half shut, I open'd it, and went in, and standing upright before the Niche, I said this Prayer aloud; *Praise be to God that has favour'd us with a happy Voyage, and may he be graciously pleas'd to protect us in the same manner until we arrive again in our own Country. Hear me, O Lord, and grant my Request.*

The young Man cast his Eyes upon me, and said, *My good Lady, pray let me know who you are, and what has brought you to this desolate City? And, in requital, I will tell you who I am, what happened to me, why the Inhabitants of this City are reduced to that State you see them in, and why I alone am safe and sound in the midst of such a terrible Disaster.*

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I told him in few words from whence I came, what made me undertake the Voyage, and how I safely arriv'd at the Port after 20 Days sailing; and when I had done, I pray'd him to perform his Promise, and told him how much I was struck by the frightful Desolation which I had seen in all places as I came along.

My dear Lady, says the young Man, have Patience for a Moment. At those words he shut the Alcoran, put it into a rich Case, and laid it in the Niche. I took that Opportunity to observe him, and perceived so much Good-Nature and Beauty in him, that I felt such strange Commotions in my self, as I never had done before. He made me sit down by him, and before he began his Discourses, I could not forbear saying to him, with an Air that discover'd the Sentiments I was inspired with, Amiable Sir, dear Object of my Soul, I can scarce have Patience to wait for an Account of all those wonderful things, that I have seen since the first time I came into your City; and my Curiosity cannot be satisfied too soon; therefore pray Sir, let me know by what Miracle you alone are left alive among so many Persons that have died in so strange a manner?

Scheherazade broke off here, and said to Schahriar, Sir, perhaps your Majesty does not perceive it is Day, should I continue my Discourse any longer, I should abuse your Attention. The Sultan got up, resolving next Night to hear the remainder of this wonderful Story.

The Sixty-fifth Night.

IF you be not asleep, Sister, says *Dinarzade* next Morning, before it was Day, I would pray you to resume the Story of *Zobeide*, and acquaint us what pass'd between her and the young Man, that she found alive in that Palace you gave us so fine a Description of. I will immediately satisfy you, said the Sultaneß. *Zobeide* went on with her Story thus :

Madam, says the young Man, *you have given me to understand that you have the Knowledge of a true God, by the Prayer you just now addressed to him. I will acquaint you with the most remarkable Effect of his Greatness and Power. You must know, that this City was the Metropolis of a mighty Kingdom, over which the King my Father did reign. That Prince, his whole Court, the Inhabitants of the City, and all his other Subjects, were Magi, Worshippers of Fire, and of Nardoun the antient King of the Giants, who rebell'd against God.*

And tho' I was begotten and born of an Idolatrous Father and Mother, I had the good fortune in my Youth to have a Woman-Governess, who was a good Mussulman; I had the Alcoran by heart, and understood the Explanation of it perfectly well. Dear Prince, would she oftentimes say, There is but one true God, take heed that you do not acknowledge and adore any other. She learnt me to read Arabick, and the Book she gave me to exercise upon was the Alcoran. As soon as I was capable of understanding it, she explain'd to me all the

Heads of this excellent Book, and infused into my Mind unknown to my Father, or any body else. She happen'd to die, but not before she had perfectly instructed me in all that was necessary to convince me of the Mussulman Religion. After her Death I persisted with constancy in the Belief I was in; and I abhor the false God Nardoun, and the Adoration of Fire.

'Tis about three Years and some Months ago, that a thundering Voice was heard all on a sudden, so distinctly, thro' the whole City, that no body could miss hearing it. The Words were these: Inhabitants, abandon the Worship of Nardoun, and of Fire, and worship the only God that shews Mercy.

This Voice was heard three Years successively, but no body was converted: So the last Day of the Year, at four o'clock in the Morning, all the Inhabitants in general were chang'd in an Instant into Stone, every one in the same Condition and Posture they happen'd then to be in. The King, my Father, had the same Fate, for he was metamorphos'd into a black Stone, as he is to be seen in this Palace; and the Queen my Mother had the like Destiny.

I am the only Person that did not suffer under that heavy Judgment, and ever since I have continued to serve him with more Fervency than before. I am persuaded, dear Lady, that he has sent you hither for my Comfort, for which I render him infinite Thanks; for I must own that this solitary Life is very uneasy.

All these Expressions, and particularly the last, increased my Love to him extremely: Prince, said I, there is no doubt but Providence hath brought me into your Port, to present you with an Opportunity of withdrawing from

from this dismal Place, the Ship that I am come in, may in some measure persuade you that I am in some Esteem at *Bagdad*, where I have left also a considerable Estate, and I dare engage to promise you Sanctuary there, until the mighty Commander of the Faithful, who is Vicegerent to our Prophet whom you acknowledge, do you the Honour that is due to your Merit. This renown'd Prince lives at *Bagdad*, and as soon as he is inform'd of your Arrival in his Capital, you will find that 'tis not in vain to implore his Assistance. 'Tis impossible you can stay any longer in a City where all the Objects you see must renew your Grief: My Vessel is at your service, where you may absolutely command as you shall think fit. He accepted the Offer, and we discoursed the remaining part of the Night about our Embarkment.

As soon as it was Day we left the Palace, and came aboard my Ship, where we found my Sisters, the Captain and my Slaves, all very much troubled for my Absence. After I had presented my Sisters to the Prince, I told them what had hinder'd my Return to the Vessel the Day before, how I had met with the young Prince, his Story, and the Cause of the Desolation of so fine a City.

The Seamen were taken up several Days unlading the Merchandize I brought along with me, and embarking, instead of that, all the precious things in the Palace, as Jewels, Gold and Money. We left the Furniture and Goods, which consisted of an infinite Quantity of Plate, &c. because our Vessel could not carry it, for it would have required several Vessels more to carry all the Riches to *Bagdad*, that was in our Option to take with us.

After we had laded the Vessel with what we thought fit, we took such Provisions and Water aboard as were necessary for our Voyage, (for we had still a great deal of those Provisions left that we had took in at *Ealsora*;) at last we set sail with a Wind as favourable as we could wish.

Here *Scheherazade* saw Day, and stopt her Discourse: The Sultan arose without speaking a Word, but he propos'd to himself to hear the end of *Zobeide's* Story, and the wonderful Deliverance of this young Prince.

The Sixty-sixth Night.

WHEN the ensuing Night was almost gone, *Dinarzade* being impatient to know the Success of *Zobeide's* Voyage, called the Sultaneſs: My dear Sister, Day begins to break, for God's sake continue the Story of yesternight, and tell us whether the young Prince and *Zobeide* arriv'd safe at *Bagdad*. I will, says *Scheherazade*: *Zobeide* addressing her self to the Caliph, went on thus.

Sir, said she, the young Prince, my Sisters and my self, enjoy'd our selves for some time very agreeably: But alas! this good understanding did not last long, for my Sisters grew jealous of the Friendship between the Prince and me, and maliciously ask'd me one Day, what we should do with him when we came to *Bagdad*? I perceiv'd immediately that they put this Question to me, on purpose to discover my Inclinations; therefore resolving to put it off, with a Jest, I answer'd them, I will take him for my Husband: and upon that, turning my self to the Prince, Sir, I humbly beg of you to
give

give your Consent, for as soon as we come to *Bagdad*, I design to offer you my Person to be your Slave, to do you all the Service that is in my power, and to resign my self wholly to your Commands.

The Prince answer'd, I know not, Madam whether you be in jest or no; but for my own part, I seriously declare before these Ladies, your Sisters, that from this Moment I heartily accept your Offer, not with any Intention to have you as a Slave, but as my Lady and Mistress; nor will I pretend to have any Power over your Actions. At these Words my Sisters changed Colour, and I could perceive afterwards, that they did not love me as formerly.

We were come into the *Persian Gulf*, and not far from *Balsora*, where I hoped, considering the fair Wind, we might have arriv'd the Day following; but in the Night, when I was asleep, my Sisters watched their Time, and threw me over-board. They did the same to the Prince, who was drown'd. I swam some Minutes on the Water; but by good Fortune, or rather Miracle, I felt Ground. I went towards a black Place, that by what I could discern in the Dark seem'd to be Land, and actually was a Flat on the Coast; which, when Day came, I found to be a desert Island, lying about twenty Miles from *Balsora*. I soon dried my Clothes in the Sun, and as I walk'd along, I found several sorts of Fruit, and likewise fresh Water, which gave me some hopes of preserving my Life.

I laid my self down in a Shade, and soon after I saw a winged Serpent, very large and long, coming towards me, wriggling to the right and to the left, and hanging out his Tongue, which

made me think he had got some Hurt, I arose and saw a Serpent larger than he following him, holding him by the Tail, and endeavouring to devour him: I had Compassion on him, and instead of flying away, I had the Boldness and Courage to take up a Stone that by chance lay by me, and threw it at the great Serpent with all my Strength, whom I hit on the Head, and killed him. The other finding himself at liberty, took to his Wings and flew away: I looked a long while after him in the Air, as being an extraordinary thing; but he flew out of sight, and I lay down again in another Place in the Shade, and fell asleep.

When I awak'd, judge how I was surprized to see a black Woman by me, of a lively and agreeable Complexion, who held two Bitches tied together in her hand, of the same Colour. I sat up, and asked her who she was; I am, said she, the Serpent whom you delivered not long since from my mortal Enemy. I know not how to acknowledge the great Kindness you did me, but by doing what I have done. I knew the Treachery of your Sisters, and to revenge you on them, as soon as I was set at liberty by your generous Assistance, I called several of my Companions together, Fairies like my self; we have carried all the Lading that was in your Vessel, into your Store-houses at *Bagdad*, and afterwards sunk it.

These two black Bitches are your Sisters, whom I have transform'd into this Shape: But this Punishment is not sufficient, for I will have you to treat them after such a manner as I shall direct.

At those Words the Fairy took me fast under one of her arms, and the two Bitches in the other,

other, and carried me to my House in *Bagdad*, where I found all the Riches which were loaden on board my Vessel in my Store-houses. Before she left me, she delivered me the two Bitches, and told me, If you will not be chang'd into a Bitch, as they are, I ordain you in the Name of him that governs the Sea, to give each of your Sisters every Night 100 Lashes with a Rod, for the Punishment of the Crime they have committed against your Person, and the young Prince whom they drowned. I was forced to promise that I would obey her Order. Since that time I have whipped them every Night, though with Regret, whereof your Majesty has been a Witness. I give evidence by my Tears, with how much Sorrow and Reluctancy I must perform this cruel Duty; and in this your Majesty may see I am more to be pitied than blamed. If there be any thing else, with relation to my self, that you desire to be informed of, my Sister *Amine* will give you the full Discovery of it, by the Relation of her Story.

After the Califf had heard *Zobeide* with a great deal of Astonishment, he desired his Grand Visier to pray fair *Amine* to acquaint him wherefore her Breast was mark'd with so many Scars.

But, Sir, said *Scheherazade*, it is Day, and I dare not detain your Majesty any longer. *Schakriar* being persuaded that the Story which *Scheherazade* was to relate would explain the former, said to himself, I must have the Pleasure of hearing this Story out: Upon which he arose, and resolved that *Scheherazade* should live one Day longer.

The Sixty-seventh Night.

*D*Inarzade was in a longing Condition to hear the Story of *Amine*, and therefore awak'd the Sultaneſs a long while before Day, ſaying, Dear Siſter, pray let us know why fair *Amine* had her Breſt ſo cover'd with Scars. I conſent to it, ſays the Sultaneſs, and that no time may be loſt, you muſt know that *Amine* addreſs'd her ſelf to the Califf, and began her Story after this manner.

The Story of Amine.

*C*ommander of the Faithful, ſays ſhe, to avoid repeating what your Maſteſty has already heard by my Siſter's Story, I ſhall only add, that after my Mother had taken a Houſe for her ſelf, to live in during her Widowhood, ſhe gave me in Marriage with the Portion my Father left me, to a Gentleman that had one of the beſt Eſtates in this City.

I had ſcarce been a Year married when I became a Widow, and was left in Poſſeſſion of all my Huſband's Eſtate, which amounted to 90 thouſand Sequins. The Intereſt of this Money was ſufficient to maintain me very honourably. In the mean time, when my firſt ſix Months Mourning was over, I cauſ'd to be made me 10 Suits of Clothes very rich, ſo that each Suit came to a thouſand Sequins; and when the Year was paſt, I began to wear them.

One Day, as I was buſy all alone about my private Affairs, there came one and told me, that a Lady deſir'd to ſpeak to me, I order'd them

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them to bring her in: She was a Person well stricken in Years, she saluted me by kissing the Ground, and told me kneeling, Dear Lady, pray excuse the Freedom I take to trouble you, the Confidence I have in your Charity makes me thus bold; I must acquaint your Ladyship, that I have a Daughter an Orphan, who is to be married this Day; she and I are both Strangers, and have no Acquaintance at all in this Town; this puts me in a mighty Perplexity, for we would have the numerous Family with whom we are going to ally our selves, to think we are not altogether Strangers, and without Credit: Therefore, most beautiful Lady, if you would vouchsafe to honour the Wedding with your Presence, we shall be infinitely oblig'd to you; because the Ladies of your Country will then know that we are not look'd upon here as despicable Wretches, when they shall come to understand, that a Lady of your Quality did us that Honour. But alas, Madam, if you refuse the Request, we shall be altogether disgrac'd, and dare not address our selves to any other.

This poor Woman's Discourse, mix'd with Tears, mov'd my Compassion. Good Woman, said I, do not afflict your self, I am willing to grant you the Favour you desire, tell me what Place I must come to, and I will meet you as soon as I am dress'd; the old Woman was so transported with Joy at my Answer, that she kiss'd my Feet, without my being able to hinder it. Good charitable Lady, said she, rising up, God will reward the Kindness you have shew'd to your Servants, and make your Heart as joyful as you have made theirs. It's too soon yet to give your self that Trouble, it will be time enough when I come to call you in the Evening:

So

So farewell, Madam, said she, till I have the Honour to see you again.

As soon as she was gone, I took the Suit I liked best, with a Necklace of large Pearl, Bracelets, Pendants in my Ears, and Rings set with the finest and most sparkling Diamonds; for my Mind presaged what would befall me.

When Night drew on, the old Woman came to call me with a Countenance full of Joy, she kiss'd my Hands, and said, *My dear Lady, the Relations of my Son-in-law, who are the principal Ladies of the Town, are now met together; you may come when you please, I am ready to wait upon you.* We went immediately, she going before, and I followed her with a good number of my Maids and Slaves very well drest: We stopt in a large Street, newly swept and water'd, at a large Gate with a Lanthorn before it, by the Light of which I could read this Inscription over the Gate in golden Letters, *Here is the Abode of everlasting Pleasures and Content.* The old Woman knock'd, and the Gate was open'd immediately.

They brought me to the lower end of the Court, in a large Hall, where I was received by a young Lady of admirable Beauty; she came up to me, and after having embraced me, and made me sit down by her upon a Sofa, where there was a Throne of precious Wood, beset with Diamonds; Madam, said she, you are brought hither to assist at a Wedding; but I hope this Marriage will prove otherwise than what you expected. I have a Brother, one of the handsomest Men in the World; he is fall'n so much in love with the Fame of your Beauty, that his Fate depends wholly upon you, and will be the unhappiest of Men if you do not take pity

pity on him. He knows your Quality, and I can assure you that he is in no wise unworthy of your Alliance. If my Prayers, Madam, can prevail, I shall join them with his, and humbly beg you will not refuse the Offer, of being his Wife.

After the Death of my Husband I had no Thoughts of marrying again : But I had no power to refuse the Offer made by so charming a Lady. As soon as I had given Consent, by silence, accompany'd with a Blush, the young Lady clapt her Hands, and immediately a Closet-Door open'd, out of which came a young Man of a majestick Air, and so graceful a Behaviour, that I thought my self happy to have made so great a Conquest. He sat down by me, and by the Discourſe we had together, I found that his Merits far exceeded the Account his Sister had given me of him.

When she saw that we were satisfied one with another, she clapt her Hands a second time, and out came a Cadis or Scrivener, who wrote our Contract of Marriage, signed it himself, and caus'd it to be attested by four Witnesses he brought along with him. The only thing that my new Spouse made me promise, was, That I should not be seen, nor speak with any other Man but himself ; and he vowed to me upon that Condition, that I should have no reason to complain of him. Our Marriage was concluded and finish'd after this manner, so I became the principal Actress of a Wedding, whereunto I was only invited as a Guest.

After we had been married a Month, I had occasion for some Stuffs, I asked my Husband's leave to go out and buy them, which he granted; and I took that old Woman along with me,
of

of whom I spoke before, she being one of the Family, and two of my own female Slaves.

When we came to the Street where the Merchants dwell, the old Woman told me, Dear Mistress, since you want Silk-Stuffs, I must carry you to a young Merchant of my Acquaintance, he has of all sorts, and it will prevent your wearying your self, by going from one Shop to another. I can assure you that he is able to furnish you with that which no body else can. I was easily persuaded, and we enter'd into a Shop belonging to a young Merchant, a Man likely enough; I sat down, and bid the old Woman desire him to show me the finest Silk-Stuffs he had: The Woman bid me speak my self, but I told her it was one of the Articles of my Marriage-Contract, not to speak to any Man but my Husband, which I ought to keep.

The Merchant shew'd me several Stuffs, of which one pleas'd me better than the rest; I bid her ask the Price. He answer'd the old Woman, I will not sell it for Gold or Money, but I will make her a Present of it, if she will give me leave to kiss her Cheek. I bid the old Woman tell him, that he was very rude to propose such a thing. But instead of obeying me, she said, What the Merchant desires of you is no such great matter; you need not speak, but only present him your Cheek, and the Business will soon be done: the Stuff pleas'd me so much, that I was foolish enough to take her Advice. The old Woman and my Slaves stood up that no body should see it, and I put up my Veil; but instead of a Kiss, the Merchant bit me till the Blood came.

The Pain and Surprize was so great, that I fell down in a Swoon, and continu'd in it so long, that the Merchant had time to shut his Shop, and fly for it. When I came to my self, I found my Cheek all bloody: The old Woman and my Slaves took care to cover it with my Veil, that the People that came about us could not perceive it, but suppos'd it to be only a fainting Fit.

Scheherazade, as she spoke these Words, perceiv'd Day, and held her peace. The Sultan, finding the Relation very extraordinary and pleasant, rose up with a design to hear the rest of it.

The Sixty-eighth Night.

WHEN next Night was near an end, *Dinazade* awak'd, and called to the Sultanness, If you please, Sister, pray continue the Story of *Amine*. *Scheherazade* answer'd, The Lady resum'd it thus.

The old Woman that was with me, being extremely troubled at the Accident, endeavour'd to comfort me; My dear Mistress, said she, I beg your Pardon, for I am the Cause of this Misfortune, having brought you to this Merchant, because he is my Countryman; but I never thought he could be capable of such a villainous Action. But do not grieve, let us make haste to go home, I will give you a Medicine that shall perfectly cure you in three Days time, so that the least Mark shall not be seen. The Fit had made me so weak, that I was scarce able to walk: But at last I got home, where I had a second Fit, as I went into my Chamber.

Mean

Mean while the old Woman applied her Remedy, so that I came to my self, and went to bed.

My Husband came to me at Night, and seeing my Head bound up, ask'd me the Reason? I told him, *I had the Head-ack, and hoped he would enquire no farther*; but he took a Candle and saw my Cheek was hurt: *How comes this Wound?* said he. And tho' I was not very guilty, yet I could not think of owning the thing: Besides, to make such a Confession to a Husband, I thought was somewhat undecent; therefore I told him, *That as I was going to seek for that Stuff you gave me leave to buy, a Porter, carrying a Load of Wood, came so close by me, as I went through a narrow Street, that one of the Sticks gave me a Rub on my Cheek; but it is not much hurt.* This put my Husband into such a Passion, that he vow'd it should not go unpunish'd; for I will to-morrow give Order to the Lieutenant of the Police to seize upon all those Brutes of Porters, and cause them to be hang'd. Being afraid to occasion the Death of so many innocent Persons, I told him, Sir, I should be sorry that so great a Piece of Injustice should be committed. Pray don't do it; for I should judge my self unpardonable, if I were the Cause of so much Mischief. Then tell me sincerely, said he, how came you by this Wound? I answer'd, *That it came through the Inadvertency of a Broomseller upon an Ass, who coming behind me, and looking another way, his Ass gave me such a Push, that I fell down and hurt my Cheek upon some Glass.* Is it so? said my Husband: Then to-morrow Morning before Sun-rising the Grand Visier Giafar shall have an Account of this Insolence, and he shall cause all the

the Broomfellers to be put to death. For the Love of God, Sir, said I, let me beg of you to pardon them, for they are not guilty. *How, Madam,* said he, *what is it I must believe? Speak, for I am absolutely resolv'd to know the Truth from your own Mouth.* Sir, said I, *I was taken with the Giddiness, and fell down, and that's the whole Matter.*

At these last Words my Husband lost all Patience. *Oh! cry'd he, I have given ear to your Lyes too long;* with that, clapping his hands, in came three Slaves: *Pull her out of Bed,* said he, *and lay her in the middle of the Floor.* The Slaves obeyed his Orders, one holding me by the Head, another by the Feet; he commanded the third to fetch him a Scimiter, and when he had brought it, *Strike,* said he, *cut her in two in the middle, and then throw her into the Tigris to feed the Fishes.* *This is the Punishment I give to those to whom I have given my Heart, if they falsify their Promise.* When he saw that the Slave made no haste to obey his Orders, *Why do you not strike,* said he, *Who is it that holds you? What art thou waiting for?*

Madam, then said the Slave, *you are near the last Moment of your Life, consider if you have any thing to dispose of, before you die.* I begg'd leave to speak one Word, which was granted me. I lifted up my Head, and looking wishfully to my Husband, *Alas!* said I, *to what Condition am I reduced! must I then die in the Prime of my Youth?* I could say no more, for my Tears and Sighs prevented me. My Husband was not at all moved, but on the contrary went on to reproach me, so that to have made Answer, would have been in vain. I
had

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had recourse to Intreaties and Prayers, but he had no regard to them, and commanded the Slaves to proceed to Execution. The old Woman that had been his Nurse, came in just at that Moment, fell down upon her Knees, and endeavour'd to appease his Wrath: My Son, said she, since I have been your Nurse and brought you up, let me beg the Favour of you to grant me her Life; consider, that he who kills shall be kill'd, and that you will stain your Reputation, and lose the Esteem of Mankind. What will not the World say of such a bloody Rage? She spoke these Words in such a taking Way, accompanied with Tears, that she gained upon him at last.

Well then, says he to his Nurse, for your sake I will spare her Life, but she shall carry some Marks along with her, to make her remember her Crime; with that, one of the Slaves, by his Order, gave me so many Blows, as hard as he could strike, with a little Cane, upon my Sides and Breast, that he fetch'd both Skin and Flesh away, so that I lay senseless: after that he caus'd the same Slaves, the Executioners of his Fury, to carry me into a House where the old Woman took care of me. I kept my Bed four Months; at last I recover'd; but the Scars you saw yesterday against my Will, have remained ever since.

As soon as I was able to walk and go abroad, I resolv'd to go to the House which was my own by my first Husband, but I could not find the Place. My second Husband, in the Heat of his Wrath, was not content to have razed it to the Ground, but caus'd all the Street where it stood to be pull'd down. I believe such a violent Proceeding was never heard of before;
but

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but against whom should I make my Complaint? The Author had taken such Care, that he was not to be found, neither could I know him again if I saw him: And suppose I had known him, is it not easily seen that the Treatment I met with proceeded from absolute Power; then how dared I make any Complaints?

Being desolate and unprovided of every thing, I had recourse to my dear Sister *Zobeide*, who gave your Majesty just now an Account of her Adventures; to her I made known my Misfortunes; she received me with her accustom'd Goodness, and advis'd me to bear it with Patience. This is the Way of the World, said she, which either robs us of our Means, our Friends, or our Lovers, and oftentimes of 'all at once: And at the same time, to confirm what she had said, she gave me an account of the Loss of the young Prince, occasioned by the Jealousy of her two Sisters; she told me also by what accident they were transform'd into Bitches: And in the last place, after a thousand Testimonies of her Love towards me, she shew'd me my youngest Sisters; who had likewise taken sanctuary with her, after the Death of her Mother.

Thus we gave God Thanks, who had brought us together again, resolving to live a single Life, and never to separate any more, for we have enjoy'd this peaceable Way of living a good many Years: And as it was my Business to mind the Affairs of the House, I always took pleasure to go my self and buy in what we wanted. I happened to go abroad yesterday, and the Things I bought I caused to be brought home by a Porter, who proved to be a sensible and a jocose Fellow,

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Fellow, and we kept him by us for a little Diversion. Three *Calenders* happen'd to come to our Door, as it began to grow dark, and pray'd us to give them shelter 'till next Morning: We gave them entrance, but upon certain Conditions, which they agreed unto; and after we had made them sit down at the Table by us, they gave us a Consort of Musick after their Fashion, and at the same time we heard knocking at our Gate. These were the three Merchants of *Moussol*, Men of a very good Mien, who begg'd the same Favour which the *Calenders* had obtain'd before: We consented to it upon the same Conditions, but neither of them kept their Promise; and though we had Power as well as Justice on our side to punish them, yet we contented ourselves with demanding from them the History of their Lives, and consequently bounded our Revenge with dismissing them, after they had done, and deprived them of the Lodging they demanded.

The Califf *Haroun Alraschid* was very well satisfied with these strange Stories, and declared publicly his Astonishment at what he had heard,

But Sir, said *Scheherazade*, Day begins to break, so that I have no time to acquaint your Majesty what the Califf did to put an end to the Inchantments of the two black Bitches. *Schabriar* supposing that the Sultaness would quite finish the Story of the five Ladies, and the three *Calenders*, the next Night; rose up, and suffer'd her to live till next Mourning.

The Sixty-ninth Night.

FOR the Love of Heaven, Sister, cried *Dinarzade* before it was Day, if you be not asleep, tell us how the two black Bitches were brought to their former Shape, and what became of the three *Calenders*. I will satisfy your Curiosity, said *Scheherazade*: Then addressing her Discourse to *Schahriar*, she pursued it thus:

Sir, the Califf having satisfied his Curiosity, thought himself oblig'd to give some marks of Grandeur and Generosity to the *Calender-Princes*, and also to give the three Ladies some Proofs of his Bounry. He himself, without making use of his Minister, the Grand Visier, spoke to *Zobeide*, Madam, this Fairy, that shewed herself to you in the shape of a Serpent, and impos'd such a rigorous Command upon you, Did she not tell you where her place of Abode was? or rather, Did she not promise to come again to see you, and restore those Bitches to their natural Shape?

Commander of the Faithful, answer'd *Zobeide*, I forgot to tell your Majesty, that the Fairy left with me a Bundle of Hair, saying withal, That her Presence would one day stand me in stead; and then, if I only burnt two Tufts of this Hair, she would be with me in a Moment, though she were beyond Mount *Caucasus*. Madam, says the Califf, where is the Bundle of Hair? She answer'd, Ever since that time, I have had such a particular Care of it, that I always carry it about me:

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me: Upon which she pull'd it out, open'd the case a little where it was, and shew'd it him. Well then, said the Califf, let us make the Fairy come hither; you could not call her in a better time, for I long to see her.

Zobeide having consented to it, Fire was brought in, and she threw the whole Bundle of Hair into it: The Palace begun to shake at that very instant, and the Fairy appear'd before the Califf, in the shape of a Lady very richly dress'd.

Commander of the Faithful, said she to the Prince, you see I am ready to come and receive your Commands. The Lady who gave me this Call, by your order, did me a particular piece of Service; to make my Gratitude appear, I reveng'd her of her Sister's Inhumanity, by changing them into Bitches: But if your Majesty commands it, I will restore them to their natural Shape.

Handsome Fairy, said the Califf, you cannot do me a greater Pleasure, vouchsafe them that Favour, and after that I will find out some means to comfort them for their hard Penance: But besides, I have another Boon to ask in favour of that Lady, who has had such cruel Usage from an unknown Husband: And as you undoubtedly know a great many things, we have reason to believe that you cannot be ignorant of this; oblige me with the Name of this barbarous Fellow, that could not be contented to exercise his barbarous Cruelty upon her Person, but has also most unjustly taken from her all the Substance she had; I only admire how such an unjust and inhuman Action could be perform'd in spite of my Authority, and not come to my Ears.

To serve your Majesty, answer'd the Fairy ;
I will restore the two Bitches to their former
State, and I will cure the Lady of her Scars,
that it shall never appear she was so beat ; and
at last I will tell you who it was that did it.

The Califf sent for the two Bitches from
Zobeide's House, and when they came, a Glass
of Water was brought to the Fairy, upon her
Desire ; she pronounc'd some Words over it,
which no body understood : Then throwing
some part of it upon *Amine*, and the rest upon
the Bitches, the latter became two Ladies of
surprizing Beauty, and the Scars that were upon
Amine vanished away. After which the Fairy
said to the Califf ; *Commander of the Faithful*,
I must now discover to you the unknown Husband
you inquire after ; he is very near related to
your self, for it is Prince *Amin* your eldest Son,
who falling passionately in love with this Lady,
by the Fame he had heard of her Beauty, he,
by an intrigue, got her brought to his House,
where he married her. As to the Strokes he
caus'd to be given her, he is in some manner ex-
cusable ; for the Lady his Spouse had been a lit-
tle too easy, and the Excuses she had made were
capable to make him believe she was more fault-
ty than really she was. This is all I can say to
satisfy your Curiosity ; and at these Words she
saluted the Califf and vanish'd.

The Prince being filled with Admiration,
and having much satisfaction in the Changes
that had happen'd thro' his Means, did such
things as will perpetuate his Memory to all
Ages. First, He sent for his Son *Amin*,
and told him, that he was inform'd of his se-
cret Marriage, and how he had wounded *A-*
mine upon a very slight Cause. Upon this the
Prince

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Prince did not wait for his Father's Command; but receiv'd her again immediately.

After which the Califf declared, that he would give his own Heart and Hand to *Zobeide*, and offer'd the other three Sisters to the *Calenders*, that were Kings Sons, who accepted them for their Brides with a great deal of Joy. The Califf assigned each of them a magnificent Palace in the City of *Bagdad*, promoted them to the highest Dignities of his Empire, and admitted them to his Councils.

The Town Clerk of *Bagdad* being call'd, with Witnesses, wrote the Contracts of Marriage; and the famous Califf *Haroun Alraschid*, by making the Fortunes of so many Persons that had undergone such incredible Calamities, drew a thousand Blessings upon himself.

F I N I S.

